

Hafa Adai!

Chamber swears in new board member. **PAGE 2**
Another series of IPI auctions begins. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Palacios: It's time to move on

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios delivers the opening remarks during the Governor's Economic Development Summit at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall yesterday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said yesterday it was easy for him and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang to lament the situation of the CNMI when they first took office, but after one year of stabilizing the fiscal situation of the government and its public services, now is the time to move on.

See **PALACIOS** on Page 4



Flight schedule for HK-Saipan route published

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Popular online travel sites have now published Hong Kong Airlines' flight schedule for the upcoming relaunch of their Hong Kong-Saipan route next month.

Travel sites published reports last Tuesday about the return of Hong Kong Airlines
See **FLIGHT** on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hong Kong Airlines is now set to return to Saipan in April starting off with two weekly flights from Hong Kong to Saipan.

Palacios supports new land lease for Coral Ocean Resort

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios generally supports granting a new land lease to Suwaso

Corp. to allow its Coral Ocean Resort's operation to continue for another 40 years, but concedes that the "devil is in the details."

Palacios said in an interview

yesterday that he has not seen the details of the proposed new land lease, but is generally open to the idea.

He said the Department
See **LEASE** on Page 4

OPA: Only 5 of 46 audit and inspection recommendations had been resolved

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Of the 46 audit and inspection recommendations the

Office of the Public Auditor had issued to government agencies as of Dec. 31, 2023, only five had been resolved. It was also learned from

interim public auditor Dora I. Deleon Guerrero that OPA requested agencies to provide updates on the corrective
See **OPA** on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Office of the Public Auditor on Capital Hill.

INSIDE



LOCAL

Saipan Southern High School alumna Keisha Deleon Guerrero has been accepted to the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care program at Boise State University.

PAGE 6



BUSINESS

Tech industry expert Nathan Benson will make a presentation at the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network's 2024 Friends of Business Summit: Cybertech Edition.

PAGE 15



WORLD

Israel is determined to launch a ground offensive against Hamas in Rafah, Gaza's southernmost town, a plan that has raised global alarm because of the potential for harm to the hundreds of thousands of civilians sheltering there.

PAGE 16



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Local

Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday at Sugar King Park

By CHRYSTAL MARINO

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Delia Camacho and the Saipan Mayoress Foundation are gearing up to host an Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, March 23, at the Sugar King Park in Garapan, and are inviting the community to join them.

With festivities kicking off at 10am, the hunt will be divided into two categories: one for children aged 1-6 and the other for ages 7-11. Special prizes will also be

announced at the event.

"I am delighted to extend a warm invitation to the community to join us," said Camacho, adding that she looks forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new participants for what promises to be an "egg-citing" family fun day.

The Saipan Mayoress Foundation, also known as Delia's CUP (Community Uplifting Program), is a non-profit organization established by Camacho, the spouse of Saipan Mayor Ramon Jose Blas Camacho.



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By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed the newest addition to its board of directors in a swearing-in ceremony at the Guma Hustisia's Supreme Court.

Docomo Pacific's senior account manager for enterprise sales, Kevin McCale, was sworn in last Monday as the Chamber's newest board member. McCale fills the seat of former board member Donna Krum, who resigned from the board last January.

According to Chamber president Joseph C. Guerrero, McCale was chosen to take over the position because he received one of the highest votes during the last Chamber board members' election.

"The vacancy comes after the resignation of former board member Donna Krum. Kevin was part of the last election, and he was the second person with the highest votes so we offered him a chance to serve on the board again, which he accepted and we are very grateful," he said.

Guerrero said he has full confidence in McCale's ability to contribute to the team as he is no rookie to the board.

"Kevin has been on the Chamber board several years ago before so we're basically welcoming him back to the Chamber board. He's been very helpful in the past, especially in our golf tournaments and other events, so we're happy he's back. We expect him to continue to help the board carry out its initiatives. As you know, we're faced with many challenges in the business community, so any and all help from our board members to promote our policies can change things around and is most welcomed. He'll be a part of that," he said.

McCale said in a statement he looks forward to doing the best he can to represent the CNMI business community.

"For the most part, I look forward to representing the business community the best I can and to help out where I can. I was a member previously, about 10 years ago, and I want to continue to try and engage with the Chamber and see

Chamber swears in new board member



Kevin McCale, third from the left, poses for a photo with Saipan Chamber of Commerce board members and Supreme Court Justice Perry Inos following his swearing-in ceremony last Monday.

where I can be of use," he said.

When asked what challenges he aims to tackle first as a part of the Chamber board, McCale said he wants to help Chamber improve the state of commerce in the CNMI.

"I'm looking at ways I can contribute, what ways the Chamber could improve the state of commerce in the CNMI," he said.

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Another series of IPI auctions begins

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Clear Management Ltd., the

U.S. District Court for the NMI-appointed receiver, has opened another series of auctions for the sale of IPI's assets

to satisfy outstanding judgments against several Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC creditors.

Last March 18, Clear Management officially put up for bids IPI's vehicles and crystal dragons estimated to be worth

millions in the receivership granted in favor of IPI creditors Joshua Gray, Kan Pacific, and USA Fanter.

Specifically, items that are up for auction are two 2017 Rolls Royce Ghost Extended, a 2017 Cadillac Escalade, a 2016 Toyota Sienna, a 2015 Lexus RX 450h Hybrid, a 2015 Nissan Frontier, a 2016 Mazda CX-5, a 2015 Toyota Rav4, a 2015 Toyota Yaris, and a 2014 Toyota Yaris.

The auction webcast for the vehicles will begin at 12pm on April 11, Saipan time.

The starting bid for the crystal dragons, which are in the lobby of the casino resort, span over 60 meters, and weighs 40 tons, is \$5,000. The auction for the crystal dragons will close on Nov 21, at 12pm.

As part of the series of auctions, Clear Management will soon put up for bids IPI's kitchen and restaurant equipment, art pieces, and liquor collections.

These auctions are on top of an ongoing series of auctions for the sale of IPI's gaming equipment to satisfy an outstanding judgment previously issued in favor of USA Fanter Corp. in 2021. The series of auctions for that case remains

ongoing with the ninth series set to close on April 22.

Back in October 2023, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the requests of Gray, Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., and USA Fanter Corp. for the limited receivership.

Back in May 2023, the U.S. District Court entered judgment in favor of Gray against IPI in the amount of \$5,686,182.20 plus pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

On July 3, 2023, since IPI did not pay the judgment or post a bond, Gray applied for a writ of execution against certain assets belonging to IPI. IPI did not file a timely opposition to that application.

On Aug. 16, 2023, the court issued a writ of execution in favor of Gray and the clerk issued a notice about the writ, informing IPI of its rights. On Aug. 21, 2023, the U.S. Marshals Service filed a notice affirming that the writ was executed.

Meanwhile, Kan Pacific and USA Fanter, which also have outstanding judgments against IPI, previously requested that the court allow them to take part in Gray's request for a limited receivership.

PALACIOS

From page 1

In his opening remarks during the Economic Development Summit at Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall, Palacios emphasized that he and Apatang did not invite the conference participants to dwell on the economic problems of the CNMI or to belabor and lay blame on past mistakes and administrations.

"Instead, we invited all of your here to focus on how we can resolve and move forward and face the challenges and make the Commonwealth a better place to be," he said.

In other words, he said, they invited the participants to help turn economic diversity into an advantage and opportunity.

"We may not always have the same thoughts [and] perspectives on how to approach and how to solve some of the problems we face, but we will listen," said Palacios.

Organized by the Office of the Governor, the summit, "Chartering Our Future," was attended by policymakers, lawmakers, government agency heads, private sector leaders, nonprofit representatives, and community stakeholders.

Apatang said the summit is the setting for all participants to look at yesteryears to map out the Commonwealth's future economic development—its growth beyond today.

Apatang said Palacios emphasized the word "team" in his remarks.

"When we work as a team, with shared visions, wants,

plans, goals, etc., as our single agenda, we will come out, I have no doubt, winners," he said.

Apatang said the Commonwealth has all it needs to build its own small island economy and remain self-sustaining while building its strength to grow financially and economically.

Palacios said in his remarks that the CNMI is confronting one of its toughest economic challenges caused by many factors, including the continuing recovery from two super typhoons, the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the questionable use of millions of federal dollars originally intended to provide economic stability.

In trying times like these, Palacios said, it's easy to suc-

cumb to doubt, and worse, to cling to the same failed economic policies that include, among others, the CNMI's overreliance on one sector of the economy.

Palacios said it is during these moments that the CNMI's resilience, innovation, and island ingenuity shine the brightest.

The governor underscored the need to put collective differences aside and work together as a team. He said economic recovery cannot be achieved by any one individual, by any one of the branches of government, by the private sector alone, or by a singular department or agency working in silos.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FLIGHT

From page 1

to Saipan next month and have also published the airlines' flight schedule.

According to the schedule, Hong Kong Airlines will be providing two weekly flights: The Hong Kong to Saipan flights will be every Thursday and Sunday, departing Hong Kong at 7:35pm and arriving on Saipan at 2:35am. The airline's Saipan to Hong Kong flights will be every Monday and Friday, departing Saipan at 4:05am.

The posted flight schedule officially solidifies the return of the airline to the Marianas—a development that has been up in the air for months.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority gave the initial word about the airline's return to the Marianas. In a

brief statement from CPA executive director Leo Tudela last March 6, he confirmed that Hong Kong Airlines is set to launch its first flight back to Saipan on April 28.

The return of Hong Kong Airlines has been in the works since last year, but the exact date of the airlines' return has always been tentative. Initially, it was to relaunch its Saipan route in November 2023. When that didn't happen, CNMI stakeholders were informed that the return of Hong Kong Airlines had been moved to February, but the relaunch was postponed anew to March.

Although the recently reported April 28 date is not set in stone just yet, there is a good chance it is more accurate as *Saipan Tribune* has learned that Hong Kong Airlines staff have started coming back to Saipan in preparation

for the airline's return.

The airline suspended its Hong Kong-Saipan flights back in 2020 and will return after an over three-year hiatus. This time, it will be using a A330 aircraft, which has 280 seats per flight.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion previously said the MVA is optimistic that Hong Kong Airlines will further boost the CNMI's tourism industry as there is a pent-up demand for travel in the area.

The launch of Hong Kong Airlines couldn't come at a better time, with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently ruling on the establishment of the CNMI Economic Vitality & Security Travel Authorization Program, which is specific to Chinese tourists. The program would essentially

allow visa-free travel for pre-screened travellers from China to the CNMI.

Last January, DHS approved the interim final ruling establishing the EVS-TAP and amending the Guam/CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

According to the interim final ruling, DHS will require persons intending to travel to the CNMI under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program to submit Form I-736 electronically in advance of travel and receive an electronic travel authorization prior to boarding a flight to Guam or the CNMI. This rule also establishes the EVS-TAP as a restricted sub-program of the G-CNMI VWP.

Under the current visa waiver program regulations, a paper U.S. Customs and Border Protection Form I-736 is presented to Immigration upon arrival.

fair market value for the annual rate of 0.6% of the fair market value for the first 10 years and that will increase to 1.125% for the remaining term of the lease.

In addition, the company will pay a percentage of its business gross receipts and contribute over \$1.8 million in public benefits.

Suwaso was initially granted a 25-year lease for lands in Unai Dangkulu containing a total area of 581,585 square meters, on Feb. 10, 1986, with an option to extend it for 15 years, for a total of 40 years. After the initial lease expired in 2011, the company opted to avail of its 15-year extension. It is currently on its 38th year. The 15-year extension will expire in 2026.

over \$30 million. The company will be granted an additional 15-year lease extension if the initial lease is granted by DPL and is approved by the Legislature.

DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos submitted to the Legislature last March 11 a packet of documents for the Legislature's review and consideration of Suwaso's request to renew its land lease. The Legislature received the packet on Tuesday.

Santos said Suwaso has sustained a good relationship with DPL and that the company has been compliant with the provisions of the lease and has kept its account current.

Under the proposed new lease, Suwaso will pay an annual rate of 0.6% of the

land lease, referring to Senate Bill 20-35, SD3, HD2 that he introduced in 2017 when he was the Senate president.

The legislation, which was signed into Public Law 20-84 in 2018, increases the term of public land leases up to 40 years plus an extension up to 15 years, for a total of 55 years.

The bill authorizes DPL to negotiate a new public land lease with certain existing public land lessees under new terms and consideration without publishing a request for proposal. It also grants the Legislature the authority to approve public land leases.

Under the DPL proposal, Suwaso is allowed to continue its operation of the Coral Ocean Resort for another 40 years, with an investment of

LEASE

From page 1

of Public Lands has already submitted the proposed lease to the Legislature and that he trusts DPL and the lawyers that helped craft the proposal.

Palacios believes the proposed lease was written in a way that would be beneficial for the community. He said he is going to look at the executive summary of the proposal.

"It has to move on to the Legislature for legislative approval," said the governor, adding it does not need his signature once it gets legislative approval.

Palacios said he was actually the one who introduced the initiative pertaining to any new

OPA

From page 1

actions they have taken to resolve each recommendation and OPA received only nine responses.

Of those nine, five came from the Department of Finance, two were from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and one each from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Commonwealth Election Commission, according to OPA's report to the Interagency Audit Coordinating Advisory Group last Wednesday.

OPA said it did not receive official responses from the DOF regarding the audit of collection on Saipan, audit of cash on Tinian and Rota, and with respect to audit of the Division of Revenue and Taxation's Hotel Occupancy Tax.

Most of the 41 unresolved audit recommendations are from DOF, at 32. CHCC has four unresolved recommendations, CEC has three, and DLNR has two.

An unresolved recommendation refers to one where the agency cannot take immediate action or OPA has not been informed by the agency or department of any action taken to address the recommendation.

OPA said it will follow up on the agencies' progress toward addressing the recommendations in the next reporting period.

Regarding the audit of collection on Saipan issued on Aug. 4, 2023, the recommendation was for DOF to develop and implement a uniform Standard Operational Procedures for accountability of collections at all DOF-sanctioned collection points.

DOF's initial response to the audit report was on Aug. 1, 2023, in which it stated that the Division of Treasury has begun efforts to finalize and disseminate an official cash handling SOP, along with other agency-specific SOPs being compiled for all DOF-sanctioned collection points on Saipan.

DOF's proposed completion date was Aug. 31, 2023.

As of Dec. 31, 2023, OPA said it has not received an update from DOF.

Pertaining to the audit report of cash on Tinian and Rota issued on Dec. 28, 2021, OPA has seven recommendations, including that collection points within the same building be consolidated to provide a central collection point for efficiency and better use of resources.

On Dec. 23, 2021, DOF noted the recommendations and stated it will work to further enhance their internal process. That was the last of it. OPA said DOF did not respond on Dec. 31, 2022, on June 30, 2023, and on Dec. 31, 2023.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MVA joins Brand USA Australia Road Show



MVA

Consul General Christine Elder, center, of the Consulate General in Sydney, Australia, stops by the Marianas promotions table at the Brand USA Australia Road Show on Feb. 20, 2024, in Brisbane. From left, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, Elder, and MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim.



MVA

The Brand USA Australia Road Show on Feb. 21, 2024, in Sydney, Australia, attracted 220 travel agents and other travel industry reps. The Marianas Visitors Authority joined the three-city road show to familiarize travel agents with the Marianas and explore potential market development opportunities.

In a bid to explore the potential of Australia as a new source market for the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority recently joined the Brand USA Road Show to meet with travel trade representatives in three of the country's biggest cities.

The Brand USA Australia Road Show—hosted in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane last month—gave the MVA the opportunity to reach nearly 600 travel agents and other industry representatives and share about the Marianas. In addition, 20 travel agents requested B2B [business-to-business] meetings with the MVA in Sydney, where more detailed discussion was held on tourism opportunities in the Marianas.

“Australia is a very different market than our long-standing markets of Japan, Korea, and China, and we gained some valuable insights in our discussions,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “For example, right now most Australians traveling in the Asia-Pacific region are going to Japan, so we had a few discussions about the potential for positioning the Marianas as an ‘add-on’ to trips to Japan. The identifica-

tion of any new market takes considerable research, time, and funding, and the MVA's doors will remain open to those industry partners who may be interested in exploring this opportunity further.”

The event was led by Consul General Christine Elder of the U.S. Consulate General in Sydney. Also participating in the Sydney road show was Steve Knode, senior commercial officer for Australia & New Zealand and former senior commercial officer in Japan, who is already familiar with the Marianas and the work of the MVA.

The Marianas was the only U.S. protectorate to promote itself as a tourism destination at expo.

Brand USA is an organization dedicated to marketing the United States as a premier travel destination. Brand USA works in close partnership with the travel industry to maximize the economic and social benefits of travel. These benefits include fostering understanding between people and cultures and creating jobs essential to the economy. Brand USA is governed by an 11-member board of directors appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. (MVA)

CNMI local earns top healthcare management credential



Dr. Cindy Pangelinan Hoepner DHS, MBA, CPHQ, CPPS, CHC, CMQOE, CQIA, FACHE, recently became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the nation's leading professional society for healthcare leaders.

“The healthcare management field plays a vital role in providing high-quality care to the people in our communities, which makes having a standard of excellence promoted by a professional organization critically important,”

says Debora J. Bowen, FACHE, CAE, president and CEO of ACHE. “By becoming an ACHE Fellow and earning the distinction of board certification from ACHE, healthcare leaders demonstrate a commitment to excellence in serving their patients and the community.”

Fellow status represents the achievement of the highest standard of professional development. As of January 1, 2024, only 8,651 healthcare executives hold this distinction. To obtain Fellow status, candidates must fulfill multiple requirements, including membership in ACHE, meeting academic and experiential criteria, references, earning continuation education credits, demonstrating professional/community involvement, and passing a comprehensive examination. Fellows also are committed to ongoing professional development and undergo recertification every three years. Dr. Hoepner is privileged to bear the FACHE® credential, which signifies board certification in healthcare management as Fellow of ACHE. Dr. Hoepner held leadership roles in various healthcare organizations in the U.S. and previously served as the Chief Operations Officer at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation.



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Saipan daughter gets into BSU Respiratory Care program

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Saipan Southern High School alumna Keisha Deleon Guerrero has been accepted to the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care program at Boise State University.

The 20-year-old is the daughter of Joaquin and Maria Flor Deleon Guerrero of Chalan Kiya, Saipan. She is currently in her third year at

BSU and is on the dean's list with a 4.0 GPA for the fall 2023 semester.

"I feel so blessed and excited for being accepted into the Respiratory Care program. I have spent quite some time thinking about what career path I wanted to pursue and I am glad that I found respiratory care. It was definitely really emotional for me because studying abroad and not being close to family was really

difficult. I was really nervous because this program is highly competitive and many have reapplied to the program in order to get in. Overall, I am so relieved that I was able to get into the program on my first try and get started in fall 2024," she said.

Deleon Guerrero thanked her family and significant other, Leo Naraja, for their support in achieving her academic goals.

"I would like to thank my family and friends for always being there to motivate and support me. I am also really grateful for my partner, Leo, and his family for their support while going to BSU in Idaho. Although it was hard being miles away from family and friends, I am glad that I was able to achieve this major accomplishment for myself and my home."

BSU's Respiratory Care



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Keisha Deleon Guerrero of Chalan Kiya, Saipan has been accepted to Boise State University's highly competitive Bachelor of Science Respiratory Care program.

program takes up to three years to complete and provide students with the knowledge and clinical skills required to function competently as a registry-eligible respiratory therapist. The program is highly competitive and one of the best respiratory programs in Idaho. BSU's respiratory program surpasses the national average for TMC high cut score, job placement, graduate and employer satisfaction.

Only 26 students are accepted in BSU's Respiratory Care program each fall semester. A BSU Respiratory Care program applicant must complete a pre-professional year that can take 2-3 semesters to finish. The program also requires that math and science classes must be completed with a "B" or better.

Applicants must submit an application and selected students may be contacted to schedule an interview. Letters of acceptance are sent to the applicants who rank the highest.

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CNMI GOVERNMENT

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ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400061

SUBMISSION DATE: April 18, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Obyan Road Paving and Drainage Improvement Project."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **March 15, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 03, 2024, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 10, 2024 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of
Procurement Services

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400073

SUBMISSION DATE: April 30, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Architectural-Engineering Services to Provide Feasibility Study and Design of the Proposed Maintenance Dredging at Smiling Cove Marina, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **March 22, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **April 09, 2024, 9:00 a.m. ChST**, at the DLNR Conference Room, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. ChST, on April 17, 2024** to **Mr. Sylvan Q. Igisomar, Secretary of DLNR**, Saipan. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
Acting Director, Division of
Procurement Services

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of March 22, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	01/23/2024 SMS-2024-024	Route 310 & Route 38 Road Improvements Project	Tapochao, Chalan Galaidi & Navy Hill, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved w/Conditions* 03/20/2024
2.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	01/23/2024 SMS-2024-025	Route 317 Road Improvement Project	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved w/Conditions* 03/20/2024
3.	Canaan Realty, LLC	01/26/2024 Supplemental SMS-2023-102	Construction of 42 Units Housing Project	As Lito, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved w/Conditions* 03/20/2024
4.	Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA)	03/01/2024 SSLR-2024-030	Typhoon Debris Shoreline & In-Water Clean-Up	Island-Wide, Saipan	Shoreline and Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 03/11/2024
5.	Triple J Saipan, Inc.	03/07/2024 SSPIWm-2024-031	Triple J 5K Color Fun Run	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline, Ports & Industrial, Wetlands & Mangrove	Approved* 03/15/2024
6.	Fengyi Zhang Williams dba Big Shark Marine Sports	03/11/2024 SLR-2024-032	Commercial Water Jet Craft & Banana Boat Operations and Kayaking & Snorkeling Activities	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 03/15/2024
7.	Success International Corporation dba M&R Construction/Contractor	03/13/2024 SPI-2024-033	Land Clearing	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Certified Complete* 03/15/2024
8.	FSM Recycling Corporation	03/13/2024 SPI-2024-034	Land Clearing	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Certified Complete* 03/15/2024

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Hofschneider Engineering Corp. donates \$1,000 to 2024 MMAC

Major sponsor Hofschneider Engineering Corp. has renewed its support for the Marianas March Against Cancer with a generous \$1,000 cash donation. The contribution was presented by HEC president and CEO William Hofschneider. He said the donation underscores the company's continued commitment to combating cancer in the community.

The 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 3, 2023, 3pm-11pm, at the CPA Airport Field.

There will be four tiers of sponsorship packages: The first is at \$10,000, and that sponsorship is usually represented on the MMAC shirt. The second one is \$8,000-plus, the third \$3,000-plus, and fourth is \$1,000-plus. They will also recognize \$500 and up sponsorships. This includes in-kind and

monetary donations.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact: mmac.sponsorship@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, there are six tiers of entry for participating teams: Pulan for families and Napu for schools, will cost \$300 for both; Atdao for non-profits, \$399; Tano for non-profit organizations partnering with a school, educational institution or government agency, \$500; Puti'on for corporations, \$550; and Tasi for corporations partnering with a family, non-profit organization or school, \$750.

For new registrants, there is a \$100 discount for early bird registration. Registration is ongoing and interested community members and groups can email recruitment.mmac@gmail.com/.

Early bird pricing will end March 15, and the final registration deadline is March 27. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row from left, Mariaans March Against Cancer Steering Committee chair Jenypy Sambile, Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Lynn Tenorio, Hofschneider Engineering Corp. president and CEO William S. Hofschneider, HEC office manager Susan Hofschneider, and HEC Business and Development vice president Rufino B. Inos Jr.

March 24 is World TB Day

On March 24, 2024, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., along with the rest of the world, will recognize World TB Day and the importance of global strategies to one day end tuberculosis.

What is World TB Day?

March 24 commemorates the date in 1882 when the mycobacterium tuberculosis was first discovered, a bacterium that causes TB.

Today, 142 years later and after all the advancements made to find its cure, TB remains a burden and found at higher rates in places like the CNMI. In 2023, the CNMI had 42.7 cases per 100,000 people compared to 2.8 cases per 100,000 in the U.S. This means the rate of TB cases in the CNMI is 15.3 times higher than the U.S.

TB disease versus TB infection

Tuberculosis is a highly contagious but curable disease that is spread from person to person through the air. TB germs are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings. Persons who breathe in the air containing these TB germs can get either TB infection or disease.

People with latent TB infection, or LTBI, have TB germs in their bodies, but they are not sick because the germs are not active. These people do not have symptoms of TB disease and cannot spread the germs to others. However, they may develop TB disease in the future. They are often prescribed treatment to prevent them

from developing TB disease.

People with TB disease are sick from TB germs that are active, meaning that they are multiplying and destroying tissue in their body. TB disease usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body such as the brain, kidneys, or spine.

Symptoms may include:

- Bad cough that lasts 3 weeks or longer
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood
- Feelings of weakness
- Weight loss
- Fever
- Night sweats

What should you do?

If you are feeling any of the TB symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider.

CHCC is committed to the CNMI public health and therefore the following services are available to the community for detecting, treating, and controlling the spread of TB:

- Medical evaluation
- Active TB disease and LTBI treatment
- Case management
- Contact tracing for persons who may have been exposed to a person with active TB disease
- Directly observed therapy

CHCC has an established reporting system in partnership with private clinic providers to help with diagnosis and treatment of TB.

For more information about tuberculosis prevention and treatment, call the CHCC Public Health Services TB/Hansen's Disease Program at (670) 236-8718. (CHCC)



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Mobil Ysengong Service Station

SAIPAN LOCATIONS:
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Gualo Rai



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Camacho leads inter-agency meeting on the health, safety, security of school district

Commissioner of Education Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, joined by the Public School System's Emergency Crisis Team, met with key CNMI health, safety, and security agency partners during an inter-agency collaboration meeting last March 15.

Held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Napu Room, Camacho met with the key officials from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, Department of Homeland Security, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.,

Saipan Mayor's Office, and the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter.

The education chief engaged with the school district's agency partners on a whole range of topics that relates to school safety, security, and well-being, which, among others, are contained in the PSS Emergency Operation Plan. The PSS-EOP is designed to handle various types of challenges, including threats, mitigation strategies, and training and improvements on all 20 elementary, middle, and high school campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. **(PR)**



PSS

Commissioner of Education Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho stresses the importance of partnership during the March 15 inter-agency convening of Public School System partners. PSS Crisis Response manager Anthony Frank listens.



PSS

DFEMS deputy secretary Steve Mesgnon, seated right, and his team works with Commissioner of Education Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho.



PSS

Hopwood Middle School principal Victorino Borja, seated right, exchanges ideas with NMI Red Cross' Christine Sablan. In the back are Commissioner of Education Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and DFEMS deputy secretary Steve Mesgnon.



PSS

DPS Commissioner Anthony Macaranas, right, and PSS-Office of Pupil Transportation's Joseph Muna, left, exchange ideas.



PSS

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Basa Camacho praised PSS' hosting of the event. Commissioner of Education Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, along with other agency partners, listen.

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Est. Mileage: 78,202, Color: SUPER WHITE

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STOCK # J7625565, FWD, 1.6L 4CYL, AUTO
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STOCK # JW468654, FWD, 2.5L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 37,252, Color: WHITE

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STOCK # HM716981, FWD 1.8L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 53,856, Color: MULBERRY METALLIC

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2019 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT
STOCK # K0543793, FWD 2.5L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 20,200, Color: GRAY

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2013 NISSAN X-TERRA PRO-4X
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Est. Mileage: 37,177, Color: GRAY

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\$19,888



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2016 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED
STOCK # GGC52123, AWD 3.5L V6, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 66,677, Color: GRAY

NOW

\$20,505



~~\$23,000~~

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT
STOCK # LU037795, FWD, 1.6L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 6,810, Color: BLACK

NOW

\$21,495



~~\$22,995~~

2021 KIA SELTOS LX
STOCK # M7196591, AWD 2.0L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 13,980, Color: BLUE

NOW

\$21,505



~~\$24,505~~

2022 HYUNDAI KONA N-LINE
STOCK # NU848960, FWD 1.6T 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 1,800, Color: GRAY

NOW

\$22,005



~~\$23,505~~

2023 KIA SELTOS LX
STOCK # P7366827, 2WD, 2.0L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 12,899, Color: GRAY

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\$22,995



~~\$27,995~~

2018 NISSAN ROGUE S
STOCK # JW151033, FWD 2.0L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 72,745, Color: PALATIAL RUBY

NOW

\$23,505



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STOCK # KL005245, AWD 1.5T 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 7,190, Color: GRAY

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The miracle of nuclear energy derailed by politics

In many ways, nuclear energy and renewable energy are the inverse of each other. One is reliable and efficient, but has a terrible reputation and faces onerous government regulations. The other is unreliable and inefficient but is widely popular and receives many government advantages.

Reason.com has released a documentary on “The political sabotage of nuclear energy.” It’s a fascinating overview of how misguided environmentalists derailed the clean energy of the future through opportunistic fearmongering.

“The United States knows that peaceful power from atomic energy is no dream of the future,” President Dwight D. Eisenhower said in his 1953 “Atoms of Peace” speech. “The capability, already proved, is here today. Who can doubt that, if the entire body of the world’s scientists and engineers had adequate amounts of fissionable material with which to test and develop their ideas, this capability would rapidly be transformed into universal, efficient and economic usage?”

Between 1967 and 1972, the country saw the construction of 48 nuclear plants. The future of cheap and reliable energy looked bright.

But the green movement pushed a false narrative linking nuclear power to the dangers and destructive capabilities of the atomic bomb. Then, in 1979, a meltdown occurred at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania. “The China Syndrome,” a fictional movie about a nuclear plant on the verge of an accident and the attempted cover-up, had just come out.

This was an opening leftists coveted. Their anti-nuclear crusade was widely successful at turning public opinion against nuclear power. New regulations stifled the industry, let alone innovation. Energy providers didn’t build a single nuclear power plant for two decades.

It’s worth remembering that there were no deaths or injuries in the Three Mile Island incident. Also, there were “no adverse effects to the surrounding environment,” the Department of Energy concluded.

In place of nuclear, environmental activists pushed renewable energy, such as solar and wind power. Those energy sources enjoy untold political advantages, including heavy government subsidies and mandates. Wind and solar are widely popular, but they are unreliable, even as government handouts have artificially lowered their costs.

There are challenges to nuclear power, not the least of which is waste disposal. But nuclear reactors have a long track record in this country of reliability and safety. The second reactor at Three Mile Island produced power until 2019. In 2022, nuclear energy provided 18.2 percent of the country’s electricity. Solar and wind provided 3.4 percent and 10.2 percent respectively.

Progressives like to talk about following “the science.” For decades, they have been ignoring their own advice when it comes to clean nuclear energy.

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The stories that ‘Oppenheimer’ didn’t tell

By **RACHEL BRONSON** and **TIM RIESER**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Last summer, the film “Oppenheimer” swept the box office and helped reignite public discourse about nuclear weapons and the ever-present threat of their use. It’s perhaps inevitable that the movie, which dramatizes the United States’ development of the atomic bomb, still provides only a partial understanding of the complex reality of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer’s life and legacy. With the movie dominating the awards season, the audience deserves to know about two crucial stories that the movie left out.

A central storyline of the film is Oppenheimer’s loss of his security clearance and eventual excommunication from the halls of power—a result of the Red Scare and his advocacy of nuclear disarmament policies that people in power did not want to hear. In the movie, that storyline ends with a flash-forward to Oppenheimer receiving a presidential award in old age. But, even at that time, Oppenheimer was still officially regarded as having been blameworthy. The decision by the Atomic Energy Commission that cost him his security clearance was still on the books.

To some, this was merely an unfortunate historical footnote, one of many wrongs committed during that era. But for a persistent few of us, led by U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, the attack on Oppenheimer’s character to silence him mattered. We saw that the decision loomed as a warning to scientists that their participation in the political process was conditional on not rocking the boat too hard. It was not an abstract concept either, as even in recent years, experts have been forced out of government jobs for supporting the scientific consensus on climate change.

So, we joined with others and urged administration after administration to overturn the AEC’s decision. Finally, in December 2022, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and the Department of Energy vacated the decision against Oppenheimer, righting a historical wrong.

It would have been a welcome addition to see this mentioned at the end of the movie. It would remind viewers that it is never too late to address historical injustices. That lesson is important now in so many sectors of our society, including the history of the Manhattan Project. If Oppenheimer’s security clearance story was not fully told in the film, the harrowing story of another group of nuclear victims was completely left out. They are still awaiting justice today.

“Oppenheimer” makes a centerpiece of the Trinity test, the

world’s first nuclear explosion. But the viewer could be forgiven for thinking that the scientists in the film were its only witnesses. Just off screen, there were many other witnesses.

Communities surrounding the Trinity testing site were rural, low-income and largely Hispanic and Indigenous. Like the scientists, some saw a flash and heard the explosion, others saw the mushroom cloud, and many remembered black rain in the following days as radioactive dust and debris that had been carried up into the atmosphere by the explosion fell back down. Under the cloud of wartime secrecy, it would be years before anyone knew that they had unwittingly received the first doses of weapons-grade atomic radiation, amplified by the water they drank and the food they ate long after the test was over.

This community would be called “Downwinders” for living “downwind” of Trinity, and they would later be joined by other Downwinders across many states harmed by hundreds of nuclear tests carried out at the Nevada test site. Their search for justice is also a story of persistence. It was not until 1990 that these groups were recognized by the federal government and given limited compensation for what they suffered without their knowledge or consent. But even that was only a first step.

The need to right these historical wrongs carries its own importance today. It would be a powerful reminder that the government should not harm its own citizens under the banner of national security or shroud its mistakes in secrecy. As important, compensation would make an immediate difference. Downwinders and their families are still suffering from the health effects of nuclear testing, and this assistance would be a lifeline. Congress must act urgently now to expand and extend the program before it expires this July.

The persistent battle to compensate the Downwinders and the long battle over Oppenheimer’s security clearance are examples of the ongoing search for justice in our nuclear history that continues to demand answers today.

“Oppenheimer” is the latest welcome step in recounting that history. There are still wrongs that can and should be righted and lessons to be learned. And as we enter a new era of nuclear danger, those are stories worth telling, and those are injustices worth addressing.

Rachel Bronson is president and CEO of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Tim Rieser was a senior aide to U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy. The fight over J. Robert Oppenheimer’s security clearance was among the policy initiatives Rieser handled on the senator’s behalf.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Schumer's point was bigger than new Israeli Elections

Something momentous just surfaced in the evolving relationship between the US and Israel: a credible attempt to reintroduce nuance into one of the many debates corrupted by hyper-partisan polarization in both countries. More than just that, it was a *cri de coeur* to all of us to feel empathy not just for the Jewish victims of Hamas since Oct. 7, nor just for the innocent Palestinians civilians who have died in the Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip, but for all humans suffering in this conflict. It was an appeal to sanity.

The occasion was a speech on the floor of the US Senate. The orator was Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the highest-ranking elected US official of Jewish faith and a man whose pedigree and biography make his devotion to Zionism unimpeachable. His very name, as he pointed out, comes from Hebrew *shomer*, guardian, and marks him as looking out for the true and long-term interests of Israel, which "cannot survive if it becomes a pariah."

Unsurprisingly in today's political climes, that conscientious message risked getting lost in the ensuing news cycle. Instead, the headlines focused on just one of the suggestions that Schumer made in his 45-minute speech, his call for new elections in Israel, because its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, "has lost his way by allowing his political survival to take precedence over the best interests of Israel." That view, as it happens, is shared by many Israelis, American Jews and other Americans, including me.

Not by Netanyahu, of course, who feigned indignation at such American interference and demonstratively reminded Schumer that Israel is "not a Banana Republic." On cue, Republicans in the US Senate and House lined up behind Netanyahu and against Schumer. Mitch McConnell, the Senate minority leader, called his Democratic colleague's suggestion "grotesque."

All those reflexes in fact manifest the pathology that Schumer felt he had to call out. US debates about Israel and Palestine have become victims of America's culture wars, as have discussions about guns, abortion or even, these days, democracy and truth. Among far-right Republicans, Israel nowadays can do no wrong,

even when it bombs civilians in Gaza or allows Jewish settlers to abuse Palestinians in the West Bank. Among far-left Democrats, Israel can do no right, even when it defends itself against unspeakably sadistic acts of terrorism.

It wasn't always this way. Throughout roughly the first half of Israel's modern existence since 1948, the American public and Congress broadly supported the country irrespective of party lines. As Yousef Munayyer, a Palestinian-American scholar at the Arab Center in Washington, DC, told me, Americans generally viewed Israel as a David facing hostile Goliaths all around. This is how older Americans, including President Joe Biden, still remember Israel.

In recent decades, however, the American left and right have diverged on Israel. On the evangelical fringe of the Republican party, Christian Zionism took hold. It views the return of the Jews to Israel—including the West Bank under its biblical names Judea and Samaria—as prologue to the Second Coming of Christ and the end of time. That vision ends well for Christians (who enter rapture) but not for Jews (who go to hell), although that twist never stopped politicians like Netanyahu from cultivating American evangelicals as political confederates. The rise of nationalism, under former president Donald Trump in the US and Netanyahu in Israel, further consolidated this alliance between the Republican right and Israeli hardliners.

The American left went to the other extreme. In particular, younger voters increasingly see Israel not as David but as the Middle East's Goliath, with its nukes and tanks and West Bank settlers. To many progressives, Israel looks like a perennial bully, says Munayyer, and a neo-colonial overlord oppressing its Palestinian victims.

Washington's lobbyists reflect this bifurcation. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the largest pro-Zionist organization on K Street, used to hover above the partisan fray, befriending politicians in both parties, including Schumer and McConnell. In recent years, however, AIPAC has increasingly raised money from right-leaning donors in order to spend it in

By **ANDREAS KLUTH**
Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering US diplomacy, national security and geopolitics. Previously, he was editor-in-chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist.



Democratic primaries against left-leaning politicians whom it views as insufficiently pro-Israel.

In response, a group of smaller lobbies this month formed an alliance called Reject AIPAC. Its goal is to spend money in the other direction, for candidates that AIPAC is opposing. Usamah Andrabi, one of Reject AIPAC's spokespeople, told me that AIPAC is the new National Rifle Association—another once palatable interest group that's morphed into a hyper-partisan attack machine.

Many Americans, Jewish or gentile, feel left out in this shouting match. "I like polls with a third option," says Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of J Street, a lobby that's both pro-Israel and pro-peace and smaller than AIPAC. And that space is what Schumer is trying to re-occupy, he told me. It's a zone where empathy, nuance and responsibility become possible, and with them, also solutions. It's a frame of mind that Schumer urged on Israelis, Palestinians, Arabs and Americans alike.

Whether Schumer's appeal leads to change in US policy toward Israel or the situation in Gaza remains to be seen. Biden said he liked the speech but didn't elaborate. But it could give the president political cover if he feels that he needs to withdraw diplomatic, financial or military support from Netanyahu. As Netanyahu appears ready to cross Biden's "red line" by invading the Gazan city of Rafah and risking another humanitarian disaster, that moment may indeed be nigh.

How measles reemerged as a threat in California and elsewhere

By **ABRAAR KARAN and JULIE PARSONNET**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The measles virus is resurging in the U.S. despite the long-standing availability of a vaccine that provides nearly life-long immunity. In the past few weeks, hundreds of people were exposed to a child with the virus in a Northern California healthcare facility; our state is one of 17 jurisdictions with reported measles cases in 2024, higher than seen in recent years.

Measles is an extremely transmissible pathogen: On average, one infected person infects 12 to 18 unvaccinated people. The airborne virus can linger in floating aerosols long after someone has left a room, and the common symptoms typically take a week or two to appear.

Infections can also cause immune amnesia, in which your immune system becomes better at fighting measles and worse at fighting other infections you were previously protected against. In rare cases it also leads to death, more often in children than adults, from respiratory or neurological complications, including a type of brain swelling in young children that can appear years after the initial measles infection.

Before the measles vaccine was introduced and licensed in 1963, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cites an annual average of 549,000 cases (with likely millions more going unreported), 48,000 hospitalizations, nearly 500 deaths and 1,000 people with chronic disability. By 2000, thanks to vaccination, measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. But because of cases from people arriving here from other countries, combined with pockets of low vaccination, we are seeing outbreaks among unvaccinated people.

Policy can worsen the issue. Last month in Florida, follow-

ing an outbreak at an elementary school, the state's surgeon general left the decision to parents whether to send their children to school, citing high levels of community immunity as the rationale for not following the usual protocols. That cavalier response risked a much worse outbreak. A more standard response would have called for unvaccinated students and staff to be vaccinated and quarantine for 21 days (the time frame in which the disease could develop).

It might be tempting to Californians to dismiss this as a Florida problem. But our state has a measles time bomb on our hands. Ideally communities should hit at least 95% vaccination to achieve herd immunity. But a recent nationwide survey found that Southern California alone has 350 schools falling short of the desired vaccination threshold, meaning a single measles case in these schools could easily become an outbreak among the unvaccinated.

Misinformation around the measles vaccine has been an issue for years. A debunked but influential 1998 research paper in the *Lancet*, a British medical journal, suggested a link between the vaccine, which babies can receive starting at the age of 12 months, and autism. The paper was retracted in 2010 (and the authors were later reported to have committed fraud). But measles vaccine rates dropped in England throughout the early 2000s.

In California, a 2014 outbreak at Disneyland was connected to more than 140 cases in North America, with declining vaccination rates one contributing factor. A recent systematic review of the reasons why parents reject measles vaccination for their children found fear of autism the most cited concern. Those who were hesitant more frequently cited the internet and social media as information sources on vaccines than those who were not hesitant.

In recent years hesitancy has grown as misinformation about the COVID vaccine has made some parents doubtful of rou-

tine inoculations. Vaccination exemptions during the 2022-23 school year reached the highest level ever reported in the U.S. According to the CDC, the 93.1% vaccination rate among eligible children puts about 250,000 kindergarten students at risk for measles.

Encouragingly, we've seen in our own state that vaccine hesitancy can be reversed. Marin County had among the lowest measles vaccination rates in the state in 2011 and now has coverage close to 99% among children entering school.

But as the recent scares remind us, we still aren't where we need to be with vaccination. Following the Disneyland outbreak, in 2015 California passed a law to remove the "personal belief" exemption from required childhood vaccines, meaning people must provide a medical reason to decline it. The law broadened the criteria for medical exemptions, which increased the year after it passed. Although the state tightened up medical exemptions with a new law in 2019, with the pandemic disrupting routine vaccinations and increasing homeschooling, the percentage of kindergarteners not up to date on vaccinations went up by 2021.

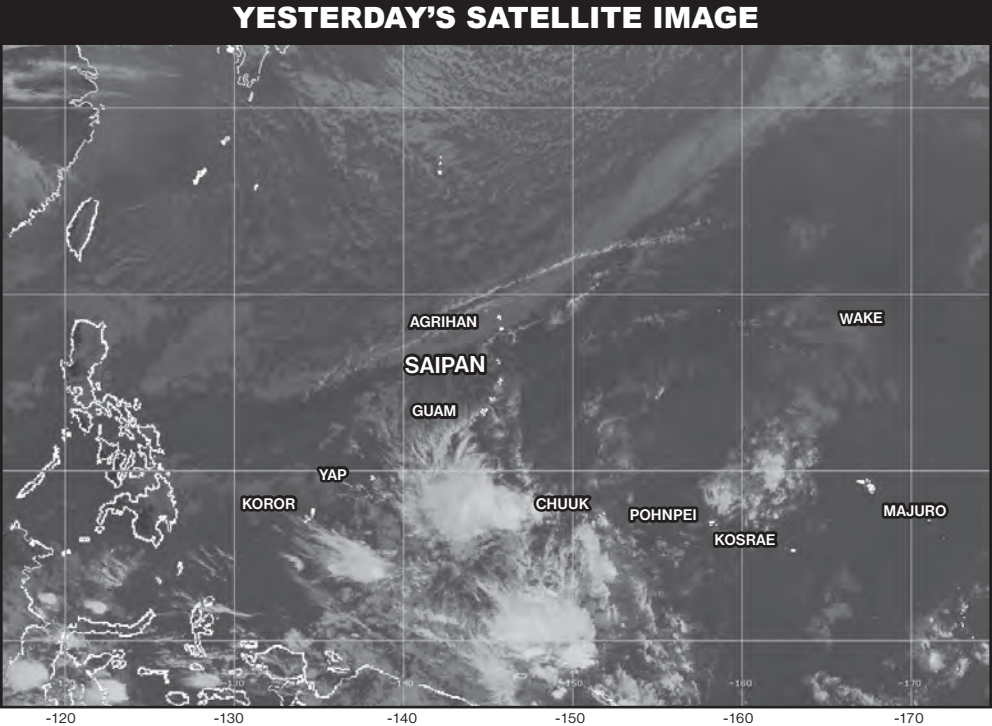
Vaccine exemption laws vary widely across the U.S., with some states allowing only medical exemptions, some also allowing religious exemptions and others permitting philosophical exemptions too. And outbreaks from one state can spill over across borders quickly.

That means decisions by Florida's public health department, and vaccine hesitancy anywhere, can affect us all. California has to close the gap for communities that are not well-protected against measles.

Abraar Karan is an infectious disease doctor and researcher at Stanford University, where Julie Parsonnet is a professor of infectious diseases and of epidemiology and population health.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Windy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 15 to 20 mph with frequent gusts to 30 mph.		Windy. Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
84	76°	85	76°	85	76°	85	76°	85	75°



PICTURE TIME: 7:54 AM THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Local observation shows mostly clear skies over Guam. Satellite imagery shows a swath of high clouds over Saipan heading towards the north. No showers are present.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 76°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 82°	
Majuro	Fair	86° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:16 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:26 AM	4:10 PM
Saturday	-	5:02 AM	4:57 PM
Sunday	-	5:35 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	-	6:08 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	-	6:40 AM	7:14 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	71° / 51°	
Beijing	Fair	60° / 33°	
Hong Kong	Fair	71° / 62°	
Honolulu	Windy	78° / 70°	
London	Mostly Sunny	50° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Clear	72° / 54°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 78°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°	
Miami	Sunny	81° / 72°	
New York	Clear	55° / 36°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	47° / 35°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	54° / 39°	
Busan	Sunny	61° / 48°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	53° / 34°	
Salem	Showers	71° / 55°	
San Francisco	Showers	57° / 47°	
Seoul	Sunny	50° / 26°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	56° / 39°	
Washington, DC	Fair/Wind	68° / 42°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:11 AM	Low Tide	0.07	
7:07 AM	High Tide	1.66	
12:49 PM	Low Tide	0.91	
5:56 PM	High Tide	1.59	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3462	08:00AM	1:30PM	Daily Feb 7-16 only
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
				7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Education chief will be guest speaker at Chamber April meeting

Commissioner of Education Dr. Lawrence Camacho will serve as the guest speaker of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's April general membership meeting on April 3 at the Hibiscus Hall of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

The head of the CNMI Public School System is expected to share his initiatives to Chamber members.

In addition, Chamber committee chairs will present updates on recent activities, plans, and initiatives.

The general membership meeting will also have a Member Spotlight presentation by Triple J Saipan. Member spotlight presentations are a part of a benefit of sponsoring our major events. For the Chamber's 14th Annual Golf Tour-

nament in 2023, Triple J Saipan is sponsoring a hole-in-one and the Chamber is honored to have them as Member Spotlight presenters for the April general membership meeting.

The Chamber's April general membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3, 2024, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Join the Chamber and be a

Limited seats available at 'AI in the Workplace' training

Join the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for the 2024 1st Quarter Professional Development Training on "Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace," facilitated by Jerome C. Ortiz, interim IT director of Northern Marianas College.

This comprehensive training, scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at TPOD 1, NMC Campus, offers two sessions: 9am-11am and 1pm-3pm.

This professional development training is designed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of Artificial Intelligence and its applications in the professional arena. The training topics are:

Understanding AI basics:

- Introduction to essential concepts and skills for setting up and utilizing AI platforms.

- Exploration of technologies like ChatGPT and other AI tools.

AI in the workplace:

- Hands-on experience in

deploying AI for problem-solving and content generation.

- Practical insights into integrating AI solutions into the daily operations of businesses.

Introduction to AI:

- A solid introduction to navigating the AI landscape.

- Guidance on effectively integrating AI tools into day-to-day business operations.

Participants are asked to bring their own computer or mobile device to enhance the training experience.

The training fee is \$50 for Chamber members and \$60 for future Chamber members. Register three or more participants and receive \$5 off each registrant.

Due to high demand, seats are filling up quickly. To secure your spot at this professional development opportunity, interested individuals can RSVP by visiting [https://business.saipanchamber.com/](https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/details/2024-1st-quarter-professional-development-training-artificial-intelligence-461?calendarMonth=2024-03-01)

events/details/2024-1st-quarter-professional-development-training-artificial-intelligence-461?calendarMonth=2024-03-01. Alternatively, you may contact the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or via email at contactus@saipanchamber.org.

The Chamber is committed to providing opportunities for professional growth and development, and the "Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace" training promises to be an insightful and practical session for individuals and businesses alike.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization in the CNMI with a membership of 140 members and growing. The Chamber is committed to empowering enterprise as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, family, and the community succeed as one. (PR)


part of the discussion. To register for the general membership meeting, RSVP by visiting the following link: <https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/details/2024-april-general-membership-meeting-462?calendarMonth=2024-04-01>. You may also contact the Chamber's office at (670) 234-7150 or send

them an email at contactus@saipanchamber.org.

The registration fee is \$35 for Chamber members and \$40 for future Chamber members which includes a delicious lunch, networking opportunities, and insightful discussions.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization with approxi-

mately 140 members dedicated to promoting the economic growth and development of the CNMI. The Chamber serves as the collective voice of the business community, advocating for their interests, fostering collaboration, and driving initiatives that support the local economy. (PR)



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB24-JUD-42400045

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 15, 2024 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF THE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND REPAIR AND UPGRADE OF THE FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM AT THE GUMA' HUSTISIA"

A COPY OF THE ITB SPECIFICATIONS AND DRAWINGS ARE ONLY AVAILBALE AT THE CASHIER'S WINDOW, DOOR #5, 1ST FLOOR, GUMA' HUSTISIA, SUSUPE, SAIPAN BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M., MONDAY TO FRIDAY, EXCLUDING OBSERVED HOLIDAYS. BIDDERS SHALL NOTIFY THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER AT procurement@nmijudiciary.gov ONE (1) DAY BEFORE THE DATE AND TIME BIDDERS ANTICIPATE TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE ITB DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS. THE SPECIFICATIONS AND DRAWINGS WILL BE PROVIDED VIA UNIVERSAL SERIAL BUS (USB). BIDDERS MUST BRING THEIR OWN USB DEVICE.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE JUDICIARY COURT BY APRIL 5, 2024, TO MS. CHRISTINE ANINZO VIA EMAIL AT procurement@nmijudiciary.gov

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ TRACY B. NORITA
SECRETARY, FINANCE

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE, NMI JUDICIARY

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ronalyn L. Sison	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0371
Petitioner,	
vs.	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Brando L. Sison	
Respondent,	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504351 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2024.

/s/
Dep. Clerk of Court



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2024

Opening date: March 04, 2024 Closing date: March 22, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

Position(s):

- (2) AOA Controller-I
- (1) ARFF Mechanic II
- (1) Comptroller
- (1) Custodial
- (1) Master Electrician
- (1) Procurement Technician
- (1) Receptionist/Secretary
- (1) Safety Officer/Quality Control Specialist

SALARY

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr)
UNGRADED
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to 12.42/hr)
PL 19/1 to 19/12 (\$17.48/hr to \$29.90/hr)
PL 9/1 to 9/12 (\$10.73/hr to \$18.35/hr)
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
Minimum: \$36,356.89/annum
Maximum: \$62,182.63/annum

Location: TINIAN

Position(s):

- (1) General Maintenance

SALARY

PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr to \$13.04/hr)

Location: ROTA

Position(s):

- (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I
- (2) Custodial/Maintenance-I

SALARY

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr to \$13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 22, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerities, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



MOBILE CLINIC SCHEDULE

for March 2024

Adult Health Check

Mar 8th & 15th

- Mar. 8 at NAP Office, As Lito from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
- Mar. 15 at Kagman Community Center, Kagman from 8:00AM - 11:30AM

Clinical check with provider includes routine wellness exam, physical screening for height and weight, and/or consultation for other concerns. Other community health services: blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals.

Child Health Check

Mar 6th & 22nd

- Mar. 6 at Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Susupe from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
- Mar. 22 at Lucky De Market, Dandan from 1:00PM - 4:30PM

For children 0-17 years old. Clinical check with provider includes developmental behavioral assessment, measurement and growth, other health screening, and/or consultation for other concerns.

Women Health Check

Mar 4th & 18th

- Mar. 4 at WIC Office, Navy Hill from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
- Mar. 18 at Mount Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa from 8:00AM - 11:30AM

Recommended for women who haven't seen a provider in over a year for clinical services: Pap Smears, breast exams, prenatal care, postpartum care, and/or contraceptive counseling and methods



MARCH IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

(670) 287-9926/9927/9929 www.chcc.health [@cnmichcc](https://www.facebook.com/cnmichcc)



Public advised to stay up to date on measles vaccines

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is advising the community and healthcare providers to be on the alert for possible cases of measles.

While the CNMI has not experienced any recent outbreaks or spread of measles within our islands, we are reminded that measles can be brought in when residents or travelers are exposed overseas and re-enter.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that declines in measles

vaccinations globally have increased the risk of larger measles outbreaks worldwide, including the U.S. mainland.

Staying up to date on routine childhood vaccines, including the two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine (usually first given at the one-year well-child visit and again at 4-6 years of age) protects our children and the larger community from outbreaks of measles. For adults, one or two doses of the MMR vaccine is recommended de-

pending on situations that may pose a higher risk for measles transmission.

In a CDC Health Alert Network issued on March 18, 2024, individuals, especially those anticipating international travel should follow the following recommendations:

■ Even if not traveling, ensure that children receive all recommended doses of MMR vaccine. Two doses of MMR vaccine provide better protection (97%) against measles than one dose (93%).

Getting MMR vaccine is much safer than getting measles, mumps, or rubella.

■ Anyone who is not protected against measles is at risk of getting infected when they travel internationally. Before international travel, check your destination and CDC's Global Measles Travel Health Notice for more travel health advice, including where measles outbreaks have been reported.

■ Parents traveling internationally with children

should consult with their child's healthcare provider to ensure that they are current with their MMR vaccinations at least two weeks before travel. Infants aged 6 to 11 months should have one documented dose and children aged 12 months and older should have two documented doses of MMR vaccine before international travel. Depending on where you are going and what activities you plan, other vaccines may be recommended too.

■ After international trav-

el, watch for signs and symptoms of measles for three weeks after returning to the United States. If you or your child gets sick with a rash and a high fever, call your healthcare provider. Tell them you traveled to another country and whether you or your child have received MMR vaccine.

To check what vaccines you might need or where to get them, please call the CHCC Immunization Clinic at (670) 236-8745, open Monday to Saturday, 7:30am-4:30pm.

The MMR and other vaccines are available for children ages 0-18 years who have Medicaid, or no insurance at no-cost under the Vaccines for Children Program at the CHCC Immunization Clinic, Children's Clinic, Rota Health Center, and Tinian Health Center. For adults and individuals who are insured, we recommend contacting your healthcare clinic or a pharmacy for your vaccines.


Vaccines are also available through our partners in the CNMI: Medical Associates of the Pacific, Marianas Medical Center, Kagman Isla Community Health, Southern Isla Community Health, Tinian Isla Community Health, and Brabu Pharmacy. Contact these locations for their vaccine availability and eligibility requirements.

Measles is a very contagious disease caused by a virus. It spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Measles starts with fever, followed by cough, runny nose, and red eyes. Then a rash of tiny, red spots breaks out, starting at the head and spreads to the rest of the body.


Measles can cause serious health complications and may result in death, especially in children under 5 years of age and in infants under 1 year old, who are too young to be vaccinated against measles. According to the CDC, one out of every 20 children with measles gets pneumonia, and one out of 1000 develops encephalitis (swelling of the brain). Nearly one to three out of 1,000 children who become infected with measles will die from respiratory and neurologic complications.

More information about measles is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>.

The CHCC would like to thank the CNMI community, especially parents and caregivers, for doing your part to protect our children and community members against this serious health threat. (CHCC)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a Regular Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, **March 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the CUC Conference Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten DanDan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Adoption of Agenda

D. Adoption of Minutes

1. Minutes of January 25, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

2. Minutes of February 3, 2024 Special Board Meeting

3. Minutes of March 7, 2024 Special Board Meeting

E. Correspondence

Management Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

B. Chief Financial Officer's Report

C. Legal Counsel's Report

III. Committee Reports

Old Business

1. Proposed New Classification System

2. Update on CUC Drug Policy

V. New Business

VI. Public Comments **

VII. Executive Session*

VIII. Announcements


IX. Adjournment

/s/


JANICE A. TENORIO, Chairwoman

All interested persons are welcome to attend, submit written and oral testimony on the above Agenda items.

- Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
- Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PORT OF SAIPAN CPA OFFICE LEAK REPAIRS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Office Leak Repairs at the Captain George F. Fleming Memorial Building at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-SS-001-22.

The project is being funded by the CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi L. Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, March 13, 2024.**

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.


Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.


/s/ LEO B. TUDELA

Executive Director

Date: February 14, 2024



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NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
Automated Teller Machine
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-006-24
CPA Concession No.: SAT-2024-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations to provide Automated Teller Machine at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning March 15, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport, CPA offices are closed on its austerity days and holidays. The IFB includes a layout and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@cpicom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than April 2, 2024.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-006-24."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **3:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, April 18, 2024**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.


Bids will be opened on April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., at the Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to provide Automated Teller Machine services at a certain designated location within the Saipan International Airport for a period of five (5) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.


FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

OWNERS/AGENT ENGINEER SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFQ-001-24

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

In collaboration with the Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CPA is continuing its modernization initiatives of the CNMI's air and seaports through the identification, development, implementation, and completion of major capital improvement plan (CIP) projects that will further enhance the air and seaports' resiliency, sustainability and core capabilities.

Therefore, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Owners/Agent Engineer (OAE) Services with the intent to provide CPA professional services and technical support in the areas of design and engineering services, program management support, financial consulting and analysis, and other related services specific to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the Francisco Manglona Borja/Saipan International Airport, the Benjamin Manglona Taisacan International Airport, the Port of Saipan, the Rota West Harbor, and the Tinian Harbor.

The project is being funded by a grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at email address wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Nora Vincent at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024.**

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their qualification statements no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024.** All proposals shall be addressed to the attention of CPA's Executive Director, Mr. Leo B. TudeLA. Additionally, proposals transmitted via facsimile or email will not be accepted.


The professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Additional supporting documents that complement the qualification statements are encouraged.


The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all qualification statements for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: March 14, 2024



RICHARD C. MILLER, F0458
BANES HOREY BERMAN & MILLER, LLC
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Attorneys for Plaintiff



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT BANK, Plaintiff,
v.
LEILANI D. ELLIS (aka LEILANI C. ELLIS), LEIANN R. ELLIS, and CLIFFORD M. CAMACHO, Defendants.

Civil Action No. 22-0144
NOTICE OF SALE

Plaintiff Pacific Islands Development Bank ("PIDB") hereby gives notice that, in order to satisfy sums due pursuant to the Judgment and Order dated September 12, 2023, in favor of PIDB, and the Order of Foreclosure Sale dated February 20, 2024, the auctioneer designated in the Order of Foreclosure Sale will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on Tuesday, **April 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.**, the following parcel of real property:

Lot 004 D 24, Garapan, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less as more particularly described on Drawing/ Cadastral Plat No. 004 D 00, the original of which was registered 16 November 1970 as Document No. 650 at Land Registry, including all improvements, appurtenances, and easements used in connection therewith, all water and water rights used in connection therewith, and also the rents, issues and profits thereof ("the Property").

TERMS OF SALE

1. Auction Location. The auction will be held at the law offices of Banes Horey Berman and Miller, LLC ("Banes Horey"), Macaranas Building, First Floor, 4165 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

2. Auction Procedure. The auctioneer designated by the Court will conduct an auction via competitive bidding. The bidding will remain open until the auctioneer declares it closed. If a dispute arises between bidders, the auctioneer shall make the final decision either to determine the successful bidder or to resell the Property.

3. Auctioneer's Rights. The auctioneer may withdraw the Property from sale at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid, adjourn the auction without notice, at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; reject any bid, for any reason; or expel a bidder from the auction location.

4. Bids. Bidders may submit bids in advance for the Property. These bids will not be binding. The highest advance bid will become the opening bid for the Property on the day of the auction. During the bidding, bidders may make bids in person or by telephone to Banes Horey at (670) 234-5684.

5. Deposit. The successful bidder shall give Banes Horey an earnest money deposit by personal check, cashier's check, or money order equal to 10.00 percent of the winning bid amount ("the Deposit"). Banes Horey will apply the Deposit toward the amount of the winning bid. If the winning bidder fails to deliver the Deposit to Banes Horey before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the auction, the winning bidder's bid will be deemed to be automatically rejected, without further notice to the winning bidder. A bidder who bids by telephone shall comply with the deposit requirement.

6. Sale Terms. The winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the winning bid to PIDB by personal check, cashier's check, or money order no later than 10 business days after winning the auction. The closing will take place at Banes Horey, Macaranas Building, First Floor, 4165 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The winning bidder may request that the closing proceed through escrow, on condition that the winning bidder pay all escrow fees.

7. Property Sold "AS-IS WHERE-IS." The Property is being sold in "AS-IS WHERE-IS" condition, PIDB and the auctioneer make no representations, express or implied, with respect to the Property's title, area, location, or suitability for any particular purpose, or the existence or non-existence of any conditions that might affect development of the Property, including but not limited to zoning, hazardous waste, historical preservation issues, threatened or endangered species, and wetlands.

8. Changes to Auction Terms. Either PIDB or the auctioneer may change or add to these terms or any additional terms prior to or at the auction. An oral announcement made at the auction will supersede anything in writing, including these terms. All changes made in this manner will be binding on the winning bidder.

/s/

Richard C. Miller

Auctioneer

Business

Nathan Benson to speak at Friends of Business Summit

The excitement continues to build for the upcoming CNMI Small Business Development Center Network's 2024 Friends of Business Summit: Cybertech Edition, and the CNMI SBDC is pleased to announce a notable addition to its lineup of esteemed speakers. Set to take the stage during one of its afternoon breakout sessions is renowned tech industry expert and entrepreneur, Nathan Benson.

The utilization of Artificial Intelligence, or AI, provides businesses a unique opportunity to provide better services to their customers more cost effectively. In this highly informative and educational session, Benson will be discussing actionable ways businesses can use AI to grow their business, and how they can ready themselves for the next big technology wave that will transform the world.

Join CNMI SBDC for a focus session titled "Leveraging AI to Grow ROI." Based on educating businesses about

Artificial Intelligence, and how best business owners can utilize AI to improve business operations, this session will cover all the ways Artificial Intelligence is reforming the global business landscape and how it's working in favor of changing the face of technology and our human resource capital in the workplace.

Takeaways:

After this session, participants will know:

- What is AI?
- What the benefits of using AI are.
- How can AI be brought and utilized in business.

About the presenter:

• Nathan Benson is the CEO of TrueBeep, and hails from the island of Saipan. Benson

spent 15 years in the United States working in the technology scene. Prior to returning to Saipan, Benson worked for Facebook. His focus is on bringing the amazing advancements in Artificial Intelligence technology to small businesses. Fun fact: Benson has six sons.

About the CyberTech Summit:

The 2024 Friends of Business Summit: Cybertech Edition is a CNMI SBDC signature event that aims to bring together the private and public sectors across the Commonwealth. This year, the SBDC is taking the Summit on a tech space journey through exploring the latest technological advances that can propel leaders in business, education and central government into the digital age. This training opportunity and tradeshow event will be open to all current and future SBDC clients at no-cost; however, pre-registration will be required. Due to limited seating, clients who do not have a confirmed reservation will not be admitted.

Join CNMI SBDC as it offers training opportunities where areas in Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and

technological advancement in the workplace and education, and implementation of technological systems in governmental operations will be topics of discussion lead by both local and national industry experts.

Key highlights:

1. Innovative presentations: Throughout the course of the day, Industry experts and



Benson

thought leaders will share insights into the latest technological trends and offer solutions on how businesses can leverage them for their growth and efficiency.

2. Trade show: A vibrant trade show will be a central part of the Summit, featuring tech businesses showcasing their cutting-edge products and services, providing a unique opportunity for the community to interact directly with tech innovators and explore firsthand, solutions that will be made available to them and how best they can be implemented to support business needs.

3. Networking opportunities: The summit will foster networking opportunities, allowing attendees to connect with fellow professionals, government representatives, and tech industry leaders, building connections crucial for fostering collaboration and driving innovation.

"We are excited to bring the 2024 Friends of Business Summit: Cybertech Edition to the CNMI's business and education communities," said Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, network director of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network. "This event was designed to empower businesses with the market, knowledge and resources they need to thrive in the digital era. We are grateful for the collaboration with our industry experts and the NMC's Office of Information Technology. We look forward to a day of learning, networking, and exploring the exciting possibilities that technology offers as we move into the age of digital transformation." (PR)

US inflation up again in February in latest sign that price pressures remain elevated

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumer prices in the United States picked up last month, a sign that inflation remains a persistent challenge for the Federal Reserve and for President Joe Biden's re-election campaign, both of which are counting on a steady easing of price pressures this year.

Prices rose 0.4% from January to February, higher than the previous month's figure of 0.3%, the Labor Department said Tuesday. Compared with a year earlier, consumer prices rose 3.2%

last month, above January's 3.1% annual pace.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called "core" prices also climbed 0.4% from January to February, matching the previous month's rise and a faster pace than is consistent with the Fed's 2% inflation target. Core inflation is watched especially closely because it typically provides a better read of where inflation is likely headed.

"It's a disappointment, but not a disaster," said Eric Winograd, U.S. economist at asset manager

AB. "The underlying details are more encouraging than the top-line number, which was boosted by a few volatile categories - the type of prices that tend not to repeat month-to-month."

Those volatile items include gas prices, which jumped 3.8% just from January to February but are still below their level of a year ago. Air fares surged 3.6% after two months of much smaller increases. Clothing prices rose 0.6% after three months of declines but are unchanged compared with a year earlier.

Nation

Congressional leaders sell \$1.2T spending package

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional leaders from both parties looked to put a positive light on a \$1.2 trillion spending package that lawmakers are working to approve before funding expires at midnight Friday for a host of key government agencies.

Text of the legislation had not been released as of Wednesday afternoon, but lawmakers and aides were expecting an official unveiling early Thursday. The package, which is expected to pass, will wrap up Congress' work on spending bills for the year—nearly six months after the fiscal year began.

This year's dozen spending bills were packed into two packages. The first one cleared Congress two weeks ago just hours before a shutdown deadline for the agencies funded through the bills.

Now Congress is focused on the second, larger package, which includes about \$886 billion for defense, about a 3% increase from last year's levels. The bill also funds the Departments of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Labor and others, with non-defense spending expected to be relatively flat compared to the prior year.

GOP makes last-ditch request for Biden to testify

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden is all but winding down, lacking the political appetite from within the Republican ranks to go forward with an actual impeachment, but facing political pressure to deliver after months of work.

The chairman of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, Republican Rep. James Comer, made a last-ditch push at Wednesday's hearing, announcing he will seek testimony from Biden himself, saying the Democratic president was either "complicit or incompetent" in his son Hunter Biden's business dealings. It's highly unlikely Biden would appear before the committee.

"We need to hear from the president himself," Comer said at the close of the nearly eight-hour hearing.

The White House told Republicans to "move on" and focus on "real issues" Americans want addressed.

"This is a sad stunt at the end of a dead impeach-

ment," spokesman Ian Sams said. "Call it a day, pal." Having produced with no hard evidence of presidential wrongdoing it's clear the lengthy GOP impeachment inquiry is all but coming to a close. Seeking testimony from the president is a possible final act. Rather than drawing up articles of impeachment against Biden, Comer is eyeing potential criminal referrals of the family to the Justice Department, a largely symbolic move.

The committee's top Democrat, Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland, said the Republicans have turned the investigation into a "laughing stock" and the "comedy of errors" of the Biden impeachment inquiry is finally "crashing to an end."

Republicans launched their early investigations into the president after taking control of the House last year, eager to hold Biden to the high bar of impeachment. The House, under a Democratic majority, had twice impeached Republi-

can Donald Trump during his presidency.

House rule that calls for giving lawmakers 72 hours to review major legislation before having to vote on it.

That is riling some House Republicans, but following the rule would surely invite some lapse in federal funding, even if just for a day or so, for several key federal agencies.

Once the bill passes the House, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. said he will put it on the Senate floor.

"Even with bipartisanship, it's going to be a tight squeeze to get this funding package before the weekend deadline," Schumer said. Democrats celebrated staving off the vast majority of policy mandates Republicans had sought to include in the spending bills, such as restricting access to the abortion pill mifepristone or banning access to gender-affirming health care.

"We're exactly in the position that we knew we were going to end up," said Rep. Pete Aguilar D-Calif. "We knew that House Democrats, Senate Democrats, Senate Republicans and the White House weren't going to tolerate any significant harmful cuts and crazy policy riders."

As Trump and Biden face another likely rematch this November, the probe is grinding on drilling into Hunter Biden's often complicated business dealings and troubled personal life, particularly during the years before Joe Biden became president.

The committee asserts that the Bidens traded on the family name, an alleged influence-peddling scheme in which Republicans are trying to link a handful of phone calls or dinner meetings between Joe Biden, when he was vice president or out of office, and Hunter Biden and his business associates.

Hunter Biden, who is facing firearm and tax charges in separate matters, testified behind closed doors last month in a deposition that filled more than 200 pages but left Comer's committee without evidence rising to "high crimes and misdemeanors" that would be expected to impeach a president.

Hunter Biden, who is facing firearm and tax charges in separate matters, testified behind closed doors last month in a deposition that filled more than 200 pages but left Comer's committee without evidence rising to "high crimes and misdemeanors" that would be expected to impeach a president.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

US, Japan seek UN resolution calling on all nations to ban nuclear weapons in outer space

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States and Japan are sponsoring a U.N. Security Council resolution calling on all nations not to deploy or develop nuclear weapons in space, the U.S. ambassador announced Monday. Linda Thomas-Greenfield told a U.N. Security Council meeting that “any placement of nuclear weapons into orbit around the Earth would be unprecedented, dangerous, and unacceptable.” The announcement that the U.S. and Japan had circulated a resolution follows White House confirmation last month that Russia has obtained a “troubling” anti-satellite weapon capability, although such a weapon is not operational yet. Russian President Vladimir Putin declared later that Moscow has no intention of deploying nuclear weapons in space, claiming that the country has only developed space capabilities similar to those of the U.S. The Outer Space Treaty ratified by about 114 countries including the United States and Russia prohibits the deployment of “nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction” in orbit or the stationing of “weapons in outer space in any other manner.” Japan’s Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, who chaired the council meeting, said that even during “the confrontational environment” of the Cold War, the rivals agreed to ensure that outer space remained peaceful.

A S. Korean chemical tanker capsizes off Japan, killing 8 and leaving 2 missing

TOKYO (AP)—A South Korean chemical tanker capsized off an island in southwestern Japan on Wednesday, authorities said, killing eight people on board. One crew member survived, and the fate of two others was unknown. Officials said the tanker was carrying 980 tons of acrylic acid, a corrosive organic compound that is used in adhesives, paints and polishes. No leak has been detected, and officials are studying what environmental protection measures may be needed in case there is a leak. The Japan Coast Guard said it received a distress call from the chemical tanker Keoyoung Sun, saying that it was tilting while seeking refuge from the weather near Japan’s Mutsure Island, about 1,000 kilome-

ters (620 miles) from Tokyo in southwestern Japan. The ship was completely capsized by the time rescuers arrived at the scene. Footage on Japan’s NHK television showed the ship lying upside down, a rough sea washing over its red underside. The ship was carrying 11 crew, of whom nine have been found, authorities said. The one crew member confirmed alive is from Indonesia, and the coast guard was still searching for two more. South Korean officials held a meeting Wednesday to discuss the capsizing. During the meeting, Vice Foreign Minister Kang Insun asked officials to mobilize all available resources to support rescue works and assist the relatives of South Korean crew members, according to the Foreign Ministry. The ship was en route from the Japanese port of Himeji to Ulsan in South Korea, the coast guard said. Its captain was South Korean, and its crew included another South Korean national, a Chinese national and eight Indonesians, according to the coast guard.

Japan’s exports rise nearly 8% in February on strong shipments of cars and machinery

TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s exports rose 7.8% in February from a year earlier on strong shipments of cars and electrical machinery, the government said Thursday. Exports in February totaled 8.2 trillion yen (\$55 billion), marking the third straight month of growth, according to preliminary customs data. The report showed the trade deficit sank by more than half on-year to 379 billion yen (\$2.5 billion), marking the second straight month of a deficit. Exports to China rose just 2.5% and those to all of Asia edged 2.3% higher on-year, suggesting that demand has moderated. Exports to the United States rose 18% and exports to the EU were up almost 16%. The picture for imports was mixed, with China supplying 1.7 trillion yen (\$236 billion), a nearly 17% annual increase that more than doubled Japan’s deficit with its giant neighbor. In all, imports edged up 0.5%, totaling nearly 9 trillion yen (\$60 billion), as prices for key commodities such as coal and liquefied natural gas fell. The strength in exports come as good news, coming a day after the Bank of Japan raised its key interest rate for the first time in 17 years, no longer setting it at below zero. The central bank has promised

to still keep lending easy as it gauges various signs for how growth holds up. One positive recently is a solid rebound in tourism, which counts statistically as exports, with recent data showing that visitor numbers have exceeded those before the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan restricted entry into the country during the pandemic.

Biden to host Japan PM Kishida, PH President Marcos for White House summit

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden will host Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for a White House summit next month amid growing concerns about North Korea’s nuclear program, provocative Chinese action in the South China Sea and differences over a Japanese company’s plan to buy an iconic American steel company. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre in a statement on Monday said the first-ever U.S.-Japan-Philippines leaders’ summit is an opportunity to highlight the countries’ “growing economic relations, a proud and resolute commitment to shared democratic values and a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.” The three leaders have no shortage of issues to discuss. The announcement came as North Korea’s state media reported that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a live-fire drill of nuclear-capable “super-large” multiple rocket launchers designed to target South Korea’s capital. The North Korean claim followed the South Korean and Japanese militaries reporting on Monday that they had detected North Korea firing multiple short-range ballistic missiles toward waters off its eastern coast, adding to a streak of weapons displays that have raised regional tensions. The U.S.-Japan relationship is facing a rare moment of friction after Biden announced last week that he opposes the planned sale of Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel to Nippon Steel of Japan. Biden argued in announcing his opposition that the U.S. needs to “maintain strong American steel companies powered by American steelworkers.” Nippon Steel announced in December that it planned to buy U.S. Steel for \$14.1 billion in cash, raising concerns about what the transaction could mean for unionized workers, supply chains and U.S. national security.

World

Why Israel is so determined to launch offensive in Rafah



Palestinians look at a residential building destroyed in an Israeli strike in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Tuesday, March 20, 2024. AP

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel is determined to launch a ground offensive against Hamas in Rafah, Gaza’s southernmost town, a plan that has raised global alarm because of the potential for harm to the hundreds of thousands of civilians sheltering there.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel can’t achieve its goal of “total victory” against Hamas without tackling Rafah.

Israel has approved military plans for its offensive. But with 1.4 million Palestinians jammed into the town, Israel’s allies, including the U.S., have demanded greater care for civilians in its anticipated incursion.

Most of those Palestinians have been displaced by fighting in other parts of Gaza and are living in densely packed tent camps or crammed into apartments.

Netanyahu is sending a delegation to Washington to present the administration with its plans.

Since Israel declared war in response to Hamas’ deadly cross-border attack on Oct. 7, Netanyahu has said a central goal is to destroy the Islamic group’s military capabilities.

Israel says Rafah is Hamas’ last major stronghold in the Gaza Strip, after operations elsewhere dismantled 18 out of the militant group’s 24 battalions, according to the military.

Israel says Hamas has four battalions in Rafah and that it must send ground forces to topple them. Some senior militants could also be hiding in the town.

The U.S. has urged Israel not to carry out the operation without a “credible” plan to evacuate civilians. Egypt, a strategic partner of Israel’s, has said that any move to push

Palestinians into Egypt would threaten its four-decade-old peace agreement with Israel.

In a phone call with Netanyahu this week, President Joe Biden told the Israeli leader not to carry out a Rafah operation, said the White House’s national security adviser, Jake Sullivan. He said the U.S. was seeking “an alternative approach” that did not involve a ground invasion.

Netanyahu said he was sending a delegation to Washington “out of respect” for Biden. But in a statement Wednesday, he said he had told Biden that Israel “cannot complete the victory” without entering Rafah.

Despite the tough talk, Israel doesn’t appear close to sending troops into Rafah. This may be connected to ongoing attempts to broker a temporary cease-fire. Qatari mediators say those talks would be set back by a Rafah invasion.

Russian border reels from sustained Ukrainian artillery and drone strikes

A Russian border region being pounded by Ukrainian shelling and drones is expanding its closure of schools and colleges amid a major evacuation plan, authorities announced Wednesday, as Kyiv’s forces extend their campaign of long-range strikes that aim to put the Kremlin under pressure.

Ukraine lacks ammunition supplies along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line because of a shortfall in promised Western supplies, which is one of the main factors forcing its army to take a more defensive stance. But at the same time, it’s attacking oil facilities deep inside Russia and seeking to unnerve

Russia’s border regions.

Some Belgorod schools near the border will close early before school holidays, regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov announced, after Ukraine shelling continued to cause deaths and injuries among the local population.

Schools in and around the city of Belgorod will close Wednesday through Friday, he said. Also, universities and colleges will switch to remote learning, and clubs and cultural, sports and other educational institutions will stay closed.

The measures were announced a day after the governor unveiled plans to evacuate about 9,000 children

from the region and several days after a rubber-stamp presidential election in Russia in which President Vladimir Putin extended his rule in a landslide.

Despite the attacks, the official voting turnout in the Belgorod region was 87%, and Putin officially captured 90.66% of the vote, which has been described as a sham by Ukraine and its Western allies.

Ukraine’s attacks on Russian soil have embarrassed the Kremlin. A Dec. 30 artillery strike on the center of Belgorod city killed 21 people, including three children, local officials said.

Putin vowed Wednesday to provide support for Belgorod civilians who have lost their homes and businesses. **(AP)**

Off The Wall

Tennessee fisherman reeled in an alligator

MAYNARDVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—A fisherman at a lake in northeast Tennessee caught a surprise at the end of his line when he pulled up a 3- to 4-foot long alligator.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency said their Union County wildlife officer Rick Roberts got a call from the angler on Monday describing the unusual catch at Norris Lake. When Roberts arrived, the angler had pinned the alligator to the ground behind its head and told Roberts he caught it on a swim bait.

Alligators are not native to that part of Tennessee and are considered Class 1 wildlife species, which are those that are inherently dangerous to humans and may only be possessed by permitted exhibitors or commercial propagators.

Matthew Cameron, regional communications coordinator for TWRA, said the alligator was taken to Little Ponderosa



In this photo provided by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, an alligator was caught by an angler in Norris Lake in Union County, Tenn., on Monday, March 18, 2024.

Zoo and Rescue, an exotic animal rescue facility in Clinton, Tennessee.

"While the origin of the alligator is unclear, it is evident that it was being illegally held in captivity and possibly

released into Norris Lake," Cameron said in an email.

Cameron said the zoo doesn't normally house alligators, so the operators are looking for a permanent home for the alligator.

Man got on a plane using picture of a girl's boarding pass. Now he faces felony charge

A Texas man is accused of trying to sneak on board a flight by taking a photo of another passenger's boarding pass, and authorities say he was caught because the flight was full and he didn't have a place to sit.

Now the man faces a felony charge of being a stowaway on an aircraft.

Wicliiff Yves Fleurizard of George, Texas, was arrested Sunday after boarding a Delta Air Lines plane in Salt Lake City for a flight to Austin, Texas, federal prosecutors in Utah said.

According to a police officer's affidavit filed in federal district court, Fleurizard boarded the plane and opened

the door to a storage space for emergency equipment. A flight attendant helped him get to the lavatory in the front of the plane.

After everyone else boarded, Fleurizard moved to a lavatory in the back of the plane. When he exited — at this point, the plane had started to taxi to the runway — he told a flight attendant that he was in seat 21F.

There was already somebody in seat 21F, a girl traveling alone, and the flight attendant confirmed that she was a ticketed passenger.

When the crew searched, Fleurizard's name didn't pop up in records for the Austin-bound flight "or any other Delta Flight for that

matter," according to the affidavit.

The plane returned to the gate, where officers were waiting.

According to the complaint, a review of surveillance footage from the boarding area showed Fleurizard taking pictures of several passengers' phones and boarding passes when they weren't looking, then using his phone as a boarding pass to get on the plane.

It turned out that a friend gave Fleurizard a buddy pass to fly on Southwest Airlines, but two previous flights were full and he was re-booked on a flight later Sunday, according to the police officer.

No attorney was listed for the man. (AP)

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Weather beatdown leaves towering Maine landmark surrounded by crime scene tape

SKOWHEGAN, Maine (AP)—Crime scene tape surrounds the Skowhegan Indian, a local landmark in Maine, after an assault by Mother Nature. The towering wooden sculpture is missing part of its face and arm, as well as a spear. The damage is believed to have been caused by wild weather and a windstorm. The 62-foot (19-meter) sculpture depicts a Wabanaki fisherman and was completed in 1969 by artist Bernard Langlais, a student and teacher at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Chamber of Commerce said. Before it was damaged, the fisherman was holding a spear in one hand and a fishing weir, or trap, in the other. The face

was damaged months ago and a Feb. 28-29 windstorm knocked off part of the sculpture's arm and the spear it held. The sculpture was last restored a decade ago. The chamber is now trying to figure out how to fund another restoration, Luke York, who chairs the board of directors of the Skowhegan Regional Chamber of Commerce, told the Morning Sentinel newspaper.

English women's league showdown delayed by teams wearing matching socks

LONDON (AP)—A top-of-the-table English Women's Soccer League game with a crowd of nearly 33,000 suffered a delayed kickoff on Friday because the teams had matching socks. Arsenal

turned up at Chelsea with the same-colored white socks, forcing referee Rebecca Welch to delay the start. Arsenal Women ended up going into the Chelsea megastore at Stamford Bridge and buying black socks. They used tape to try and hide the Chelsea and Nike logos. Arsenal's kit is made by adidas. They started 30 minutes late. "Clearly it's a human error, a mistake, but it's embarrassing," former England international Karen Carney, who played for both clubs, told Sky Sports. "This is a massive crowd, a massive game. 'It's a simple thing, a kit, and we have got it wrong. People make mistakes but the game does not need this and it's frustrating. It does not look good for the game.'" WSL leader Chelsea won 3-1.

Science & Technology

April's total solar eclipse just about 2 weeks away



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The moon will line up perfectly between the Earth and the sun on April 8, blotting out the sunlight.

By **MARCIA DUNN**
AP AEROSPACE WRITER

The sun is about to pull another disappearing act across North America, turning day into night during a total solar eclipse.

The peak spectacle on April 8 will last up to 4 minutes, 28 seconds in the path of total darkness—twice as long as the total solar eclipse that dimmed U.S. skies in 2017.

This eclipse will take a different and more populated route, entering over Mexico's Pacific coast, dashing up through Texas and Oklahoma, and crisscrossing the Midwest, mid-Atlantic and New England, before exiting over eastern Canada into the Atlantic.

An estimated 44 million people live inside the 115-mile-wide (185-kilometer-wide) path of totality stretching from Mazatlán, Mexico to Newfoundland; about 32 million of them are in the U.S., guaranteeing jammed roads for the must-see celestial sensation.

The eclipse will allow many to share in the "wonder of the universe without going very far," said NASA's eclipse program manager Kelly Korreck.

Here's what to know about April's extravaganza and how to prepare:

What happens during the total solar eclipse?

The moon will line up perfectly between the Earth and the sun, blotting out the sunlight. It will slice a diagonal line from the southwest to the northeast across North America, briefly plunging communities along the track into darkness.

Fifteen U.S. states will get a piece of the action, albeit two of them—Tennessee and Michigan—just barely.

Among the cities smack dab in the action: Dallas; Little Rock, Arkansas; Indianapolis, Cleveland; Buffalo, New York; and Montreal—making for the continent's biggest eclipse crowd.

Don't fret if you don't have

front-row seats. Practically everyone on the continent can catch at least a partial eclipse.

The farther from the path of totality, the smaller the moon's bite will be out of the sun. In Seattle and Portland, Oregon, about as far away as you can get in the continental U.S., one-third of the sun will be swallowed.

Why is totality longer?

By a cosmic stroke of luck, the moon will make the month's closest approach to Earth the day before the total solar eclipse. That puts the moon just 223,000 miles (360,000 kilometers) away on eclipse day.

The moon will appear slightly bigger in the sky thanks to that proximity, resulting in an especially long period of sun-blocked darkness.

What's more, the Earth and moon will be 93 million miles (150 million kilometers) from the sun that day, the average distance.

When a closer moon pairs up with a more distant sun, totality can last as long as an astounding 7 1/2 minutes. The last time the world saw more than seven minutes of totality was in 1973 over Africa. That won't happen again until 2150 over the Pacific.

How do I safely watch the eclipse?

Sunglasses won't cut it. Special eclipse glasses are crucial for safely observing the sun as the moon marches across the late morning and afternoon sky, covering more and more and then less and less of our star.

During totality when the sun is completely shrouded, it's fine to remove your glasses and look with your naked eyes. But before and after, certified eclipse glasses are essential to avoid eye damage. Just make sure they're not scratched or torn.

Cameras, binoculars and telescopes must be outfitted with special solar filters for safe viewing. Bottom line: Never look at an exposed

sun without proper protection any day of the year.

Where are some eclipse watch parties near me?

Towns up and down the path of totality are throwing star parties. Festivals, races, yoga retreats, drum circles and more will unfold at museums, fairgrounds, parks, stadiums, wineries, breweries and even one of Ohio's oldest drive-in movie theaters and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Besides looking up, you can attend a "space prom" in Texas Hill Country, get married at eclipse-themed ceremonies in Tiffin, Ohio, and Russellville, Arkansas, or brush up on moonwalking history at the Armstrong Air and Space Museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio—Neil Armstrong's hometown.

As the eclipse unfolds, NASA will launch small rockets with science instruments into the upper atmosphere from Virginia and chase totality's shadow from high-altitude planes. Satellites and the International Space Station crew will attempt to capture the show from space.

There will be numerous livestreams for those stuck with clouds or outside the path.

When is the next total solar eclipse?

Full solar eclipses occur every year or two or three, often in the middle of nowhere like the South Pacific or Antarctic. The next total solar eclipse, in 2026, will grace the northern fringes of Greenland, Iceland and Spain.

North America won't experience totality again until 2033, with Alaska getting sole dibs. Then that's it until 2044, when totality will be confined to Western Canada, Montana and North Dakota.

There won't be another U.S. eclipse, spanning coast to coast, until 2045. That one will stretch from Northern California all the way to Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Life & Style

Painting stolen by mobsters is returned to the owner's son — 54 years later

By MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

An 18th century British painting stolen by New Jersey mobsters in 1969 has been returned more than a half-century later to the family that bought it for \$7,500 during the Great Depression, the FBI's Salt Lake City field office announced Friday.

The 40-inch-by-50-inch (102-cm-by-127-cm) John Opie painting—titled “The Schoolmistress”—is the sister painting of a similar work housed in the Tate Britain art gallery in London.

Authorities believe the piece was stolen with the help of a former New Jersey lawmaker, then passed among organized crime members for years before it ended up in the southern Utah city of St. George. A Utah man had purchased a house in Florida in 1989 from Joseph Covello Sr.—a convicted mobster linked to the Gambino family—and the painting was included in the sale, the FBI said.

When the buyer died in 2020, a Utah accounting firm that was seeking to liquidate his property sought an appraisal for the painting and it was discovered to likely be the stolen piece, the FBI said.

The painting, which dates to about 1784, was taken into custody by the agency pending resolution of who owned it and returned on Jan. 11 to Dr. Francis Wood, 96, of Newark, the son of the painting's original owner, Dr. Earl Wood, who bought it during the 1930s, the FBI said.

“This piece of art, what a history it's had,” said FBI



Special Agent Gary France, second right, Dr. Francis Wood and Wood's children stand next to the John Opie painting that was stolen from Wood's parents' home in 1969 in Newark, N.J., on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024.

Special Agent Gary France, who worked on the case. “It traveled all through the U.K. when it was first painted, and owned by quite a few families in the U.K. And then it travels overseas to the United States and is sold during the Great Depression and then stolen by the mob and recovered by the FBI decades later. It's quite amazing.”

Opie, who came from the Cornwall region, was one of the most important British historical and portrait painters in his time, said Lucinda Lax, curator of paintings at the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Connecticut. His paintings have sold at major auction houses such as Sotheby's and

Christie's, including one bought in 2007 for almost \$1 million.

Opie often portrayed British royals and other members of the elite. But he also depicted scenes from ordinary life, such as in “The Schoolmistress,” which shows an older teacher sitting at a table with a book and surrounded by young students.

“It's such a compelling painting,” Lax said. “It's a subject drawn from everyday life and he paints it in a very direct, straightforward way. He's not artificially elevating it.”

According to the FBI, the painting was taken from Earl Wood's house by three men working at the direction of former New Jersey state Sen. Anthony Imperiale, who died

in 1999. Imperiale, a political firebrand who also served as a Newark city councilman, was in the national spotlight in the 1960s as a spokesman for cracking down on crime. He was also divisive, organizing citizen patrols to keep Black protesters out of Italian neighborhoods during riots in Newark in the summer of 1967.

Authorities say the thieves broke into the house in July 1969 in a bid to steal a coin collection, but were foiled by a burglar alarm. Local police and Imperiale responded to the attempted burglary, and the home's caretaker told the lawmaker that the Opie painting in the home was “priceless,” the FBI said.

Prince Harry's lawyer implicates Rupert Murdoch in cover-up of unlawful snooping

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry's lawyer leveled explosive new allegations Wednesday that Rupert Murdoch was aware of cover-ups at his British tabloids that used unlawful techniques to spy on the Duke of Sussex and others.

Attorney David Sherborne said Murdoch was among the executives who were aware that public statements made about phone hacking and other unlawful information gathering at News Group Newspapers were untrue.

Harry and other claimants, including actor Hugh Grant, sought during the first of a three-day hearing in the High Court to amend their lawsuit against the



Prince Harry

publisher to include allegations that executives were part of an effort to conceal and destroy evidence of wrongdoing.

“It is inferred that they would not have been carrying out this extensive concealment and destruction strategy without the knowledge and approval of Rupert Murdoch,” Sherborne said in a court filing.

Defense lawyer Anthony Hudson said the proposed changes to the case were unnecessary and seemed aimed at “campaigning against the tabloid press” and as a “substitute for a public inquiry.”

“They appear to be designed to grab headlines,” Hudson said.

Harry's lawsuit against News Group Newspapers is one of three he's brought against Britain's biggest tabloids over alleged unlawful activity carried out by journalists and private investigators they hired that came to light after a phone hacking scandal erupted at Murdoch's News of the World in 2011. The case is tentatively scheduled to go to trial in January.

Harry, 39, the younger son of King Charles III, has used the courts in his crusade against the press that he blames for a host of personal grievances.

His litigation has put him at odds with the royal family that has avoided airing their disputes in public. He made history in June when he became the first senior royal in over a century to testify in court.

In December, his efforts led to a big victory after a judge found phone hacking at Mirror Group Newspapers was “widespread and habitual.” In addition to a court judgment, he recently settled remaining allegations that included his legal fees. The total sum wasn't announced, but he was due to receive an interim payment of 400,000 pounds (\$508,000).

Wife's veganism has become a third party in marriage

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been teachers since 1999. We married in 2011. She became vegan in 2017. It helped her beat diabetes, which I love. However, she's pure vegan for animal rights and listens to vegan podcasts all day long after teaching and on the weekends. I mean all day, EVERY day with earbuds in. I have to say, “Knock, Knock” to even talk with her.

Right now, she's listening to podcasts and messaging vegan people on social media and doesn't even realize I'm typing. I love my wife, but I can't escape the frustration of not being able to have a conversation with her about anything.

We have no kids together, but I raised her son from 7 years old. He moved to live with his dad because of her obsessions with work and veganism. I love her, but the fridge is filled with kale. Should I stay, or should I go?

AFTERTHOUGHT IN OREGON

DEAR AFTERTHOUGHT: Tap your wife on the shoulder and ask her to remove her earbuds. When she does, give her an earful. Tell her you love her but you need a partner who is willing to be more of a companion than she has become. Tell her you shouldn't have to ask permission to talk to her because of her preoccupation (obsession) with her podcasts.

If you want food in the house that isn't vegan, go out and buy some. And if she's unwilling or unable to accept and adapt, try marriage counseling before calling a lawyer. The marriage you have described is not a happy one, or you wouldn't have written to me.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm growing concerned for my grandparents. They are in their late 80s and homebound. Recently, a new tenant moved into their garage apartment. They LOVE her. The rest of the family is suspicious of her. She has no job and no car and has never paid rent. She frequently spends the day with my grandparents and recently “helped” them change all their usernames and passwords to something more “simple and easy.”

My grandparents live on Social Security. They have no savings, and I don't believe they have a will. From my perspective, they are setting themselves up to be robbed, abused and left high and dry by a crook disguised as their friendly tenant.

Is this worthy of an Adult Protective Services investigation? My grandparents guilt the rest of the family by saying, “At least our tenant comes over often, unlike the rest of you.” (I live three hours away). Do I need to mind my own business? They aren't suspicious at all.

DUBIOUS IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR DUBIOUS: An investigation is not an accusation. The relationship your lonely grandparents have with this tenant is unusual. Contact APS, inform them about what's going on with your grandparents and let someone there decide whether your concerns are worth following up on. Better to be safe than sorry.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



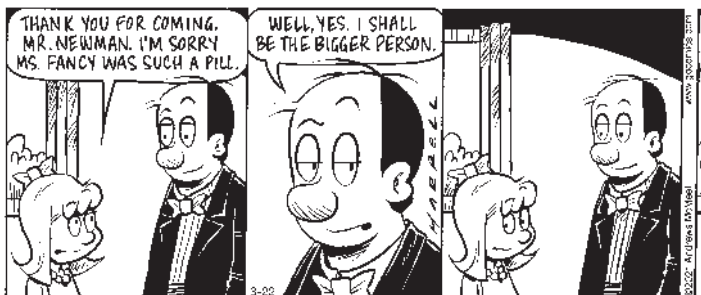
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



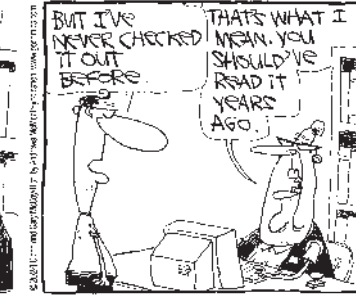
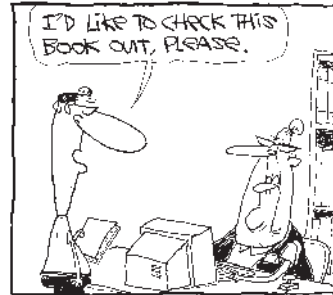
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "So there!"

4 Stumble

8 Bell sound

12 Bordeaux summer

13 Actress Chaplin

14 — mater

15 Emergency aid group

17 Baseball stats

18 Resistance units

19 Autocrats

20 Arm bones

22 French cheese

24 Legal action

25 Indy vehicles

29 Mercedes-Benz models

30 Bowl of greens

31 506, in old Rome

32 Liquor-soaked desserts

DOWN

34 "Frozen" reindeer

35 Regrets

36 Flies high

37 Painter's stand

40 — arms

41 Bond foe

42 Biennial golf competition

46 Alike (Fr.)

47 Cat call

48 Time line period

49 "Unh-unh"

50 Without

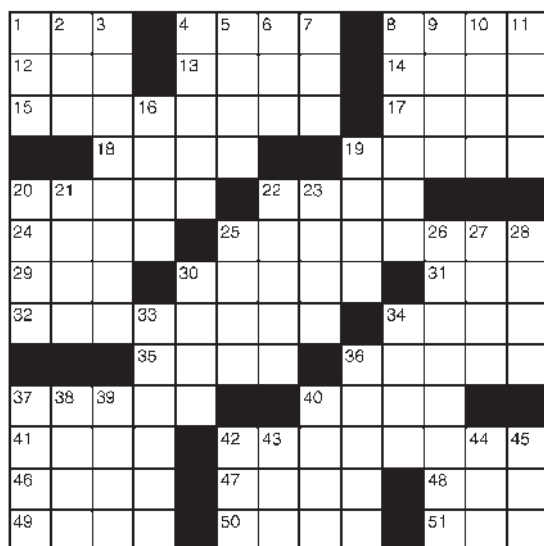
51 Carried out

1 — Majesty

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	C	S	D	A	L	J	U	L	E	P
T	A	N	O	V	O	E	S	T	E	E
N	I	A	W	E	S	T	W	O	R	L
O	R	C	D	R	E	S	S			
R	O	K	U	S	R	A	D	A	D	A
C	L	E	N	A						
K	A	Y	A	K	S	U	R	N		
G	H	E	E		C	O	S	T	H	U
W	O	R	L	D	W	I	D	E	I	I
E	T	H	I	C	O	U	R	S	A	N
S	I	O	L	I	N	P	R	I	K	O

Last Friday's Answer



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Reese Witherspoon, 48; Elvis Stojko, 52; Bob Costas, 72; William Shatner, 93.

Happy Birthday: It's up to you to make the right choice, be selective and put your energy where it counts. How you navigate life will determine what you get in return. You don't need an audience in order to reach your goal. Take the initiative and point yourself in a meaningful direction; everything else will fall into place. Seize the moment. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 29, 34, 36, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Ask questions and discover what others expect of you before setting your sights on a specific goal. Allow yourself to take advantage of changes that develop along the way. Don't let outside influences stifle your plans. It's up to you to make things happen. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Hidden matters will surface if you reveal too much about your beliefs and connections. Make sure to complete all institutional and bureaucratic issues. Taking care of business first will make your life easier. Your secret weapon is your uniqueness; let it shine. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Copycats will take over if you reveal secrets. High energy and hands-on effort will ensure that no one gets in your way or outshines you. Protect yourself from taking unnecessary risks. Keep your thoughts and plans to yourself, and do your own thing. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't stop to rest or to explain your course of action. Learn as you go, take advantage of what's available and use your talents to

separate yourself from the competition. A surge of self-discipline will help you reach your goal. Romance is on the rise. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Let things settle before you move on. Time is on your side, and your mind is alert and ready for action when the right moment occurs. Consider costs, outcomes and opportunities. The possibilities are endless if you wait for the right moment. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mixed emotions will cost you. Embrace change, and opportunities will rise to the surface, giving you choices above and beyond your expectations. Don't hesitate to engage in what brings you joy. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get the facts no matter how difficult. Nudging will encourage someone to offer insight, allowing you to decide your next move when necessary. Don't let anyone pressure you regarding a financial, legal or medical decision. Choose what fits into your routine and comfort zone. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let life unfold naturally. An open mind, ingenuity and a creative outlook will help you masterfully put into play the changes you want to make at home or in meaningful relationships. Self-improvement projects will turn out better than anticipated. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep moving, asking questions and observing what everyone around you is doing. Keeping up with what's unfolding will help you avoid getting caught in someone else's drama. Stay grounded, look for alternatives and follow the path most in touch with your needs and pursuits. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Follow the money. Emotional spending will leave you short on cash when you need it most. An offer too good to turn down is within reach. Be smart, tuned in and ready to take advantage of whatever comes your way. Don't reveal your thoughts. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Set your course and keep sight of your goal, regardless of the changes others make. Follow your leads and do your research, and you'll have the know-how and confidence to forge ahead without doubt or confusion. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Channel your energy into personal gain, feeling good and looking your best. You don't have to display how you feel or what you do; subtle changes will be enough to let others know you are on top of your game and ready for action. ***

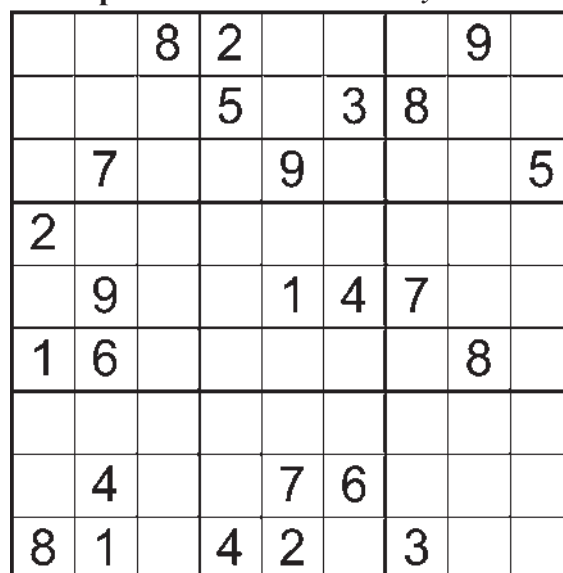
Birthday Baby: You are endearing, original and changeable. You are sensitive and inspiring.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

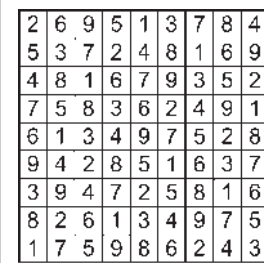
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★★★

3/22

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BELGIUM'S SCHLAGERFESTIVAL

Solution: 11 letters

S H O W I L L Y S O M M E R S
E D A N E R A O X X I R T E T
R U C E R E M O N Y E L D W A
G O I S L E V A R T R I C O N
I L N T I C K E T S E S H P V
O A O H D E V I L S T A R R A
P U R T I A G C H R N E E S W S
E A C L B S N F O G H L T O A
R L E R T A T S S R T B O L M
O Y L E P S M A T U O O F F A
M N E P O R O T C A O M F N N
E N E H A S S E L T E M A C G
O R Y V E S S E G E R S A L E
S R E I G O R T R U K L O F G

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3/22

Actor, Band, Ceremony, Christoff, De Romeo's, Die Schnappers, Electronic, Famous, Flower Power, Folk, Glamor, Glitter, Hasselt, Host, Kurt Rogiers, Laura Lynn, Lights, Lisa del Bo, Live, Loud, Luc Steeno, Seats, Sergio, Show, Sing, Stan Van Samang, Theater, Tickets, Travel, Trixxo Arena, Willy Sommers, Yves Segers

Yesterday's Answer: Countries

Last Friday's Answer: Computers

The NEW TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367.

Siakam, Haliburton combine for 45 points as Pacers rout short-handed Pistons



DETROIT (AP)—Pascal Siakam had 25 points and eight rebounds, Tyrese Haliburton added 20 points and nine assists, and the Indiana Pacers routed the short-handed Detroit Pistons 122-103 on Wednesday night.

"This was a great team performance," Haliburton said. "We did a great job of getting out and running in the second half, and we knew that would get our shots to fall."

Aaron Nesmith added 14 points as the Pacers swept the four-game season series from the Pistons. Isaiah Jackson, playing 25 miles south of his hometown, had 10 points, 11 rebounds and six assists.

"Isaiah Jackson should be the poster person for every young player that is developing and supposed to be staying ready," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "Myles (Turner) was dealing with a little bit of a bug, so we knew Isaiah was going to get some extra minutes at home, and he changed the game when he got in there."

The game was the first on Indiana's five-game road trip.

"This is a great start to the trip, but this is only the beginning," Carlisle said.

Cade Cunningham had 23 points, 10 assists and six rebounds for Detroit, which lost its fourth straight.

The Pistons played without starting forwards Ausur Thompson (blood clots) and Isaiah Stewart (hamstring), who were each ruled out for the season on Wednesday. Tosan Evbuomwan made his first NBA start and Stanley Umude



Indiana Pacers forward Aaron Nesmith (23) is defended by Detroit Pistons center Jalen Duren during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, March 20, 2024, in Detroit.

made his second before leaving with an ankle injury.

"There's no excuse—I don't care about the talent level," Pistons coach Monty Williams said. "I've spent my entire NBA career overcoming. That's just what it is. No player in this league has accomplished anything without overcoming."

Indiana led 54-52 with 1:27

left in the first half, but went on a 33-9 run to take a 26-point lead late in the third quarter.

"I think we especially struggled in the third quarter, and it has been the third quarter for a few games for us," Cunningham said. "We have to come out, our first group, and be better in the second half."

The makeshift Pistons lineup

struggled to defend the highest-scoring offense in the league, and couldn't make up for it on the other end. Detroit went 5 for 23 on 3-pointers, including 1 for 9 from the starters.

The Pacers led 98-78 going into the fourth and quickly emptied the bench. Haliburton didn't play in the fourth, Myles Turner played 48 seconds and Siakam played 1:09.

Chimeze Metu made his Pistons debut in the second quarter, extending the franchise record to 29 players used in a season. The 2020-21 Houston Rockets hold the NBA record of 30.

"You don't know what it is like to go through a season like that unless you've been through it," Carlisle said of Williams. "Monty is a great friend and universally respected in our profession. That team has gotten light years better, even if it isn't showing up yet in the win column."

HEAT 107, CAVALIERS 104

CLEVELAND (AP)—Terry Rozier scored nine points in the final 1:24, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with 14.5 on the clock, lifting Miami to a victory over Cleveland.

Rozier converted a 4-point play before sinking a 26 footer that gave Miami a 105-102 lead. After Georges Niang made two free throws for the Cavaliers, Rozier followed with two of his own with 2.8 seconds remaining.

Darius Garland had a chance to force overtime, but his off-balance, 3-point attempt was off the mark and Cleveland lost its third straight home game.

Jimmy Butler scored 30 points and Rozier finished with 24, helping Miami pull within one-half game of Philadelphia for the sixth and final automatic playoff berth in the Eastern Conference. Nikola Jovic added 14 points.

Jarrett Allen had 25 points and 20 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who are third in the East. Garland scored 20 points, Caris LeVert added 16 points and 12 assists, and Niang had 10 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter.

KINGS 123, RAPTORS 89

TORONTO (AP)—Domas Sabonis had 13 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists for his 24th triple-double of the season, De'Aaron Fox scored 20 points and Sacramento routed short-handed Toronto, extending Toronto's season-worst losing streak to eight.

Sabonis has recorded at least a double-double in 51 consecutive games.

Malik Monk scored 17 points and Harrison Barnes added 16 as the Kings won their second straight and fourth of five. Chris Duarte scored 14 points and Keegan Murray had 10 for the Kings, whose biggest lead was 38 points.

Gary Trent Jr. scored 18 points and Ochai Agbaji and Jordan Nwora each had 13 for the Raptors, who are 1-9 in March.

CELTICS 122, BUCKS 119

BOSTON (AP)—Jayson Tatum scored 31 points to help Boston win their seventh game in a row, taking advantage of the absence of two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo to beat Milwaukee.

Payton Pritchard added 19 points and six rebounds off the bench for Boston, scoring 10 points in the second quarter—as many as Milwaukee had as a team. He also grabbed four rebounds in the second, including an offensive board he took away from Brook Lopez, a player a full foot taller.

Derrick White had 23 points and eight assists, while Jaylen Brown finished with 21 points and eight boards for Boston.

Damian Lillard scored 32, including a 3-pointer in the final second. Bobby Portis had 24 points and 15 rebounds for the Bucks, who had won two in a row.

THUNDER 119, JAZZ 107

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Chet Holmgren scored 35 points and tied a career high with 14 rebounds and Okla-

homa City beat Utah.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 20 of his 31 points in the second half for the Thunder, who have the best record in the Western Conference at 48-20.

Alexander became the 13th player in NBA history to score 30 points or more in 50 games.

Collin Sexton had 25 points for Utah, which played without injured players Lauri Markkanen and Jordan Clarkson—two of the team's top three scorers.

SUNS 115, 76ERS 102

PHOENIX (AP)—Grayson Allen scored 32 points and tied a career-high with nine 3-pointers, leading Phoenix past Philadelphia.

Allen made 10 of 17 shots from the field, including 9 of 15 from long range. He's made at least eight 3-pointers in seven games this season, which is second in the NBA behind Golden State's Stephen Curry.

Kevin Durant added 22 points for the Suns while Devin Booker had 18 points, nine rebounds and 11 assists, falling just shy of his first regular-season triple double.

CLIPPERS 116, TRAIL BLAZERS 103

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Paul George scored 27 points, James Harden had 19 points and 14 assists and the Los Angeles Clippers beat Portland.

The victory gave the Clippers a one-game lead over the New Orleans Pelicans for the fourth seed in the Western Conference playoff picture.

Scot Henderson had 18 points and five assists for Portland and fellow rookie Kris Murray had a season-high 17 points.

WARRIORS 137, GRIZZLIES 116

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Stephen Curry reached 300 3-pointers for an NBA-record fifth season and scored 14 points with four 3s, one of seven players in double figures as Golden State beat Memphis.

Jonathan Kuminga scored 26 points, Andrew Wiggins added 22 and 10 rebounds and Klay Thompson 23 points off the bench. Chris Paul dished out a season-best 14 assists. do—matching the second-most by a reserve this season—in the team's 30th game with at least 30 assists. They finished with a season high 43.

GG Jackson II scored 35 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 28 for a Memphis team that lost 121-111 in overtime on Monday at Sacramento and now has dropped four straight and six of seven. Santi Aldama scored 15 of his 27 points in the second quarter and had 21 by halftime for the Grizzlies.

Cavs coach Bickerstaff says he received threats from gamblers, feels sports betting 'gone too far'

Cleveland Cavaliers coach J.B. Bickerstaff revealed he received threats from gamblers last season and reported it to the NBA.

While being asked Wednesday night about sports gambling following comments made by Indiana All-Star Tyrese Haliburton, who said he sometimes feels like a "prop," Bickerstaff said gamblers contacted him.

"They got my telephone number and were sending me crazy messages about where I live and my kids and all that stuff," Bickerstaff said before the Cavs hosted the Miami Heat. "So it is a dangerous game and a fine line that we're walking for sure."

Bickerstaff said he told security and that the gambler was located.

"No charges," Bickerstaff said. "But they found him."

With sports gambling growing in the U.S., Bickerstaff, who is in his fourth full season with the Cavaliers, said his job has

become more challenging.

"It brings added pressure," he said. "It brings a distraction to the game that can be difficult for players, coaches, referees, everybody that's involved in it. And I think that we really have to be careful with how close we let it get to the game and the security of the people who are involved in it."

"Because again, it does carry a weight. A lot of times the people who are gambling like this money pays their light bill or pay their rent, and then the emotions that come from that. So I do think we're walking a very fine line and we have to be extremely careful in protecting everybody who's involved."

Because fans can bet on their phones in the arena—the Cavs have a sportsbook inside Rocket Mortgage Field House—Bickerstaff said the line between gambling and the game has never been closer.

"There's no doubt about

it that it's crossed the line," he said. "The amount of times where I'm standing up there and we may have a 10-point lead and the spread is 11 and people are yelling at me to leave the guys in so that we can cover the spread, it's ridiculous."

"But again, I understand the business side of it and the nature of the business of it. But I mean, it is something that I believe has gone too far."

Following a recent game in Cleveland, Minnesota center Rudy Gobert said he felt gambling is "hurting our game."

Gobert made the comments after making a "money" gesture toward official Scott Foster, implying gambling was influencing the way the game was being called. He was fined \$100,000, the maximum that the NBA could give under terms of the collective bargaining agreement that went into place last year. (AP)

5th Wahoo in the Marianas postponed due to rough weather

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT



The anticipated 5th Annual Wahoo

in the Marianas fishing tournament that is organized by Tasi To Table is being postponed due to rough weather conditions, but organizers are still looking forward to carry on with the event as soon as the safety to all participants can be assured.

Gene Weaver, who is president of youth fishing nonprofit organization Tasi To Table, said in a statement yesterday that rough weather conditions on the water are expected this weekend, “so for the safety and enjoyment of all participants, we’ve made the tough decision to postpone the derby.”

The annual fishing derby, organized by student members of Tasi To Table, is held to generate revenue for the non-profit’s eight-month student program.

The prizes this year will re-



MARK RABAGO

Captain John T. Sablan and the MV Gloria II reclaimed their lofty place in local fishing lore after topping Tasi To Table’s 4th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas Fishing Tournament last year.

main the same at \$2,000 for first place; \$1,500 for second place; \$1,000 for third place; and \$500 for total weight (total weight of your three heaviest non-placing wahoo).

Registration will take place the day before the event, which is traditionally held at the Smil-

ing Cove Marina. Fees are \$200 per boat consisting of one boat captain and two anglers, and \$30 for each additional angler.

As the rescheduled date of the event is to be announced soon, the public is encouraged to keep an eye out for announcements by following

Tasi To Table on Facebook and Instagram @Tasi To Table.

“Thank you to everyone for understanding and your support of Tasi To Table. We will announce a new date for the WIM soon,” said Weaver.

For any questions related to the derby, contact event chair

Jeen Sablan at sablan.jeendan-iel@mycnmipss.org, event co-chair Brayden Haruzi at haruzi.brayden@mycnmipss.org, or the Tasi To Table office at (670) 234-8274 (TASI).

Last year the *MV Gloria II*, captained by John T. Sablan, won the \$2,000 first prize after reeling in a 29.2-lb wahoo.

In second place were the *Salty Bandits* with captain Masaki Kitami and crewmembers reeling in a 28.5-lb catch, and securing them the second prize of \$1,500. And coming in third was *Y-Knot* of captain Alexandro Castro Sr. with a wahoo weighing at 27.7 lbs and took home \$1,000.

IRIN

From page 24

this weekend with action in the men’s open, women’s doubles, women’s 35, women’s doubles 35, men’s 40, men’s doubles 40, and men’s doubles 4.0.

Action in the men’s open is expected to be the highlight of the weekend with the Top 3 seeds—Colin Ramsay, Tomas Abel, and David Kwon—welcoming Tahiti national player Heimanarii Lai Shan, who is curiously unseeded, to the tourney.

JOETEN

From page 24

teams to the Micronesian Games 2024, thanked Joeten and the Joeten Daidai Foundation for the partnership and for their continued support to NMI sports. Joeten supported Team Marianas’ campaign in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games and the 2023 Solomon Islands Pacific Games where the NMI delegation made historic achievements.

“In the past two major competitions in our region, NMI athletes and officials were able to deliver outstanding performances. Thanks to their hard work and commitment to their respective sports, and of course to the organizations, like Joeten and the Joeten Daidai Foundation, for rallying behind Team Marianas and providing generous support. Partnerships like this keep our team going and help boost their morale as they go out there and compete for the NMI. The strong

support we get from both the private and public sectors also gives us the opportunity and encouragement to keep providing programs with a goal of not just winning medals for the NMI but as well as promoting an active and healthy lifestyle among our community members through their involvement in sports,” NMSA president Jerry Tan said.

Donations for Team Marianas will go to the funds that will be used to pay for portion of the airfare and accommodations in the Marshall Islands. Athletes and officials themselves are chipping in for the costs of the trip in support of NMSA’s shared responsibility approach in sending delegates to this year’s Micronesian Games.

The community can turn in their donation by shopping at Joeten Susupe, Dandan, Garapan and Kagman stores, the Athlete’s Foot, All-Star Sporting Goods, Joeten Superstores, Ace Hardware Susupe and Middle Road, and Boarderline. (PR)

Border Control turns back Rizzlers in Round 8 of Rocball league



The game between Border Control and Rizzlers was the highlight of Rounds 8 of competition in the 41st Annual Rocball League last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In that game, Border Control came back from a 13-15 first set loss to win the second set, 19-13, and ultimately pulled off the win, 32-28. With eight rounds and 40 games completed, this year’s Rocball teams will complete the nine rounds of 45 games after spring break.

In the first game of Round 8, Bolley Ballerz defeated Spicey Locals, 40-24; Aces defeated Chagii Fahn, 63-17; Topshakaz was able to squeak out a 23-22 win over Quest; and Nesian Power was forced into overset (overtime) before they were able win their game against Baddie-Z team.

So far in the team standings, Bolley Ballerz is way in

front with a 7-1 win-loss card followed by Topshakaz and Spicey Locals at 6-2 and 5-3, respectively. Nesian Power, Border Control, Quest, Aces, and Baddie-Z are all tied at 4-4, while Chagii Fahn and Rizzlers bring up the rear with standings of 1-7 and 0-8, respectively.

In just five games of play, the MHS Rocball players have scored 60 2-point serves,

six 2-point backcourt plays, one defensive play called the “jam” where a frontline player spikes down a served ball, 19 3-point goals, and dozens of 1-point court plays.

The sport of Rocball is unique in that it is the very first team net sport in the world to invent and incorporate 3-point scoring plays seven years before the NBA created their 3-point scoring plays in

1979, and a rally point scoring system with unrestricted hitting and kicking 15 years before FIVB came out with their rule changes in 1995. Proof of Rocball’s innovative court design, scoring system, and game-winning features have been documented and registered copyrighted several times with the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. since 1980. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Border Control beat Rizzlers last week in 41st Annual Rocball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Photo shows them posing with Baddie-Z players during a recent game.

SHANE

From page 24

was a blast. Had an epic battle against Corry Pangelinan in the second heat. He was pretty much on my wheel 90% of the race. One mistake and he could’ve taken the lead. I was able to keep my composure and hit my lines and after 10 laps right behind me he finally let off and I was able to get him off my tail. Corry is our two-time Intermediate Class champ and I’m so glad he’s in

Expert Class now. He’s very fast and consistent and this year is going to be extra fun with him challenging me for the top spot,” said Alvarez.

The former mixed martial arts fighter said his performance in the March race more than made up for his February stint where he literally went home empty.

“Round 1 was really wet and muddy which made it very challenging to even get through the whole track on two wheels but definitely fun.

I ended up running out of gas on the last lap on the last heat in Round 1. This time it was really dry and dusty so sometimes it could be hard to see with all the dust in the air and some spots were extra dry and slippery,” he said.

Alvarez again thanked his father, Justis “Cuki” Alvarez, for being in his corner all throughout last Sunday’s race.

“This win wouldn’t be possible without my dad for being my mechanic and No. 1 training partner on and off

the track, and my trusty 2023 kx250f from Cycles Plus Guam. My dad is only racing the Veterans Class this year so that’s one competition I don’t have to worry about, but he could’ve helped me gain points if we were Top 2 each race too.”

In the Big Boy ATV, Christian “Hollywood” Camacho ruled the roost with his 50 points, followed by Greg Clark and Henry Camacho Sr. with 44 points and 40 points, respectively.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, Joeten Group and the Joeten Daidai Foundation are leading a fundraiser for Team Marianas. Shop at any Joeten Stores and make a donation to Team Marianas upon checkout.

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Chamber to host 15th Annual Golf Tournament on April 27

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce Two-Person Scramble Annual Golf Tournament is set for Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course with showtime at 6am and shotgun at 7am.

The annual fundraising event provides financial support for the Saipan Chamber Scholarship Program, which awards lo-

cal students seeking higher education to better contribute to our community, and other Chamber programming opportunities.

Early bird registration for the two-person scramble event is available from March 20 to April 8, 2024, at \$240 per team, with an optional play fee of \$20. After April 8, regular rates will apply at \$260 for the two-person scramble and

\$30 for optional play.

Golfers of different skill levels will have a chance to win amazing cash prizes: \$800 for first place, \$650 for second place, and \$500 for third place for two categories: Team Gross and Team Double Peoria. Golfers will also enjoy complimentary swag bags courtesy of our Chamber members, on-course snacks and refreshments, and post-tournament refreshments.

Registration is now open. Registration forms are available for pick up at our office located in the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 201-A, 2nd Floor. Last day for early bird registrations is on Monday, April 8, 2024. All registrations will be accepted until Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 5pm.

All payments must be accompanied by a registration form. Payments can only be made at the Chamber office. The Chamber accepts cash, check, and major credit/debit cards. All

checks should be payable to: Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber is pleased to have the continued support of its charitable members, golfers, and volunteers, and SCC looks forward to hosting an exciting event for a good cause, supporting higher education!

For more information, call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150, send them an email at contactus@saipanchamber.org, or visit their office from Monday to Friday, 8am-11am and 1pm-5pm. The Chamber is

closed on weekends.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber member, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call (670) 234-7150, or visit the 2nd Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A). (PR)

McDonald's of Saipan offers \$3K hole-in-one prize



In support of funding higher education in the CNMI, McDonald's of Saipan will be offering a \$3,000 hole-in-one cash prize at the Northern Marianas College Foundation's upcoming Golf Open on March 23 and 24, 2024 at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort.

"We're all about supporting our community and creating smiles, and we are proud to offer a \$3,000 hole-in-one cash prize at this year's NMC Golf Open," said Marcia Ayuyu, vice president of McDonald's of Saipan. "As a proud part of our Saipan community, we believe in supporting higher education and helping foster the next generation of students in the CNMI."

NMC's tournament will be a two-day event and the tournament fee for the 2024 golf open is \$250.

"We are thrilled to have McDonald's join us with a \$3,000 hole-in-one prize. On behalf of the NMC Foundation, we thank you," said Ben Babauta, chairperson of the NMC Foundation.

The tournament, which is also the signature event of the NMC Foundation, aims to raise funds to build and equip modern, innovative campus facilities that will help expand the CNMI's workforce development efforts, stimulate eco-

nomic growth, and provide access to quality education for the residents of the CNMI.

Like previous tournaments, this upcoming tournament will feature thousands of dollars in amazing hole-in-one prizes such as a 2024 Lexus RX350 from Atkins Kroll, a 2023 Honda Civic Type R from Joeten Motors, a \$10,000 shopping spree from Top Shelf Wine and Spirits, a \$10,000 cash prize from Ambyth Shipping, and \$10,000 cash prize from Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.

Interested companies and individuals who would like to help the college with its rebuilding efforts can donate

educational tax credit, cash, or in-kind contributions by visiting www.marianas.edu/golf or by contacting Helen Camacho at helen.camacho@marianas.edu, Raynard Travilla at raynard.travilla@marianas.edu, or Miguel Dandan at miguel.dandan@marianas.edu.

Golfers who would like to register for the upcoming tournament can also visit www.marianas.edu/golf. Only online payments are accepted for this upcoming golf open.

For more updates, follow Northern Marianas College on Facebook and Instagram ([nmc.proa](https://www.facebook.com/nmc.proa)) or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)



NMC

McDonald's of Saipan will be offering a \$3,000 hole-in-one cash prize at the Northern Marianas College Foundation's upcoming Golf Open on March 23 and 24, 2024 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. In photo from left are NMC student Richard Baleares, NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, executive assistant to the president for McDonald's of Guam and Saipan Mable Ayuyu Glenn, and NMC content creator/digital media specialist Casey Huliganga.

Priority Care and Saipan Renal Care sign on as Gold Sponsors



As part of its long-standing commitment to higher education in the CNMI, Priority Care Services and Saipan Renal Care recently donated \$5,000 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation for the upcoming Golf Open on March 23 and 24, 2024.

"We are proud to contribute \$5,000 to this year's golf open and help support higher education in the CNMI," said Priority Care Services and Saipan Renal Care owner Kevin Guerrero.

NMC's tournament will be a two-day event at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort and the tournament fee for the 2024 golf open is \$250.

"On behalf of the NMC Foundation, we are thankful for Priority Care Services and Saipan Renal Care's donation to our upcoming Golf Open," said Ben Babauta, chairperson of the NMC Foundation.

The tournament, which is also the signature event of the NMC Foundation, aims to raise funds to build and equip modern, innovative campus facilities that will help expand the CNMI's workforce de-



NMC

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For more updates, follow Northern Marianas College on Facebook and Instagram ([nmc.proa](https://www.facebook.com/nmc.proa)) or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

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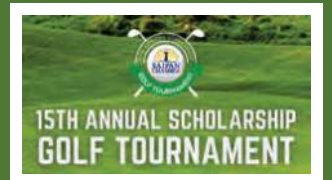
Siakam, Haliburton combine for 45 points as Pacers rout short-handed Pistons.

PAGE 20

Saipan Tribune Sports

Chamber to host 15th Annual Golf Tournament on April 27.

PAGE 23



24 FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Irin claims girls 16 championship

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Unseeded Irin Chung didn't drop a set enroute to winning the girls 16 title of last weekend's 2024 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park.

Chung beat No. 1 seed Hoo Wang, 6-4, 6-4, in the finals to win the age group of the third tennis tournament of the 2024 calendar year.

The Saipan International School student started the competition with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Savita Sikkil before punching her ticket to the finals with a 7-6, 6-2 win over Anne Lee.

Wang, meanwhile, debuted by beating Anna

Kwon, 6-1, 6-4, before arranging the finals tiff against Chung after dispatching Lina Tsukagoshi, 6-3, 6-2.

Chung said, overall, she's happy that she was able to pull off the win opposite Wang in the girls 16 finals.

"I didn't really come in with a strategy but I knew I had to make my opponent run more to make her tired since it was really hot that day," she said.



Irin Chung, seen here in a file photo, won the girls 16 title of the 2024 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic last weekend at the American Memorial Park.

She added that her age group in the 2024 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic was very competitive and that made her victory all the more fulfilling.

"It was difficult as I felt my opponents all got better. I'm happy that I came out on top. I am dedicating my win to my family as they always supported me.

In the girls 14, top seed Emma Lang swept the three-player division to win the tiara. She first beat second seed Vivian Chung, 6-4, 7-5, before claiming the championship by topping Jenna Pascual, 6-1, 6-1.

No. 1 seed Scarlett Loken won the girls 12 in similar fashion after defeating second seed Selina Shi, 6-1, 6-1, and Evan Shin, 6-1, 6-1.

In the girls 10, Fiona Yu also justified her top ranking by winning all four games. She beat Aileen Kim (6-0), Natsuki Tilipao (6-2), Harper Loken (7-6 (11)), and Jiyun Lee (6-2).

Michael Jeon and Stella Choi then took the plum in the mixed doubles 12. They beat Daniel Kang and Emma Lang, 6-3, 6-2, and Evan Zhang and Selina Chi via walkover.

Week 2 of the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-organized 2024 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic unfurls

See IRIN on Page 21

Shane sizzles in Expert Class

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR



Defending champion Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez returned to form to win the Expert Class of last Sunday's race in the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park.

The 30-year-old Financial & Insurance Services Group staff won both heats for a

perfect 50 points to dominate anew the Marianas Racing Association March race.

Corry Pangelinan finished second with two runner-up finishes for 44 points, while MRA president and former three-time Expert Class champion Ellery Cruz came in third with 40 points. Former MRA president Charles Cepeda finished fourth with 36 points.

"Round 2 into the season

See SHANE on Page 21



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez in action in the Expert Class of last Sunday's race in the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park.

Joeten launches fundraiser for Team Marianas



Staunch NMI sports supporter Joeten Group has once again stepped up to assist athletes and officials by launching a fundraiser for the benefit the Team Marianas that will be competing in the Micronesian Games 2024 in the Marshall Islands this summer.

Starting this Saturday, March 23, Joeten and its stores will be accepting donations for the Team Marianas. Donations can be made by shopping at any Joeten stores and affiliates and upon checkout, the cashier will accept the donated amount (donors could choose to donate \$1, \$5, and \$10) and add it on to the shopper's receipt. Joeten will then turn over the donation to the Northern Marianas Sports Association and will also give the company's own

donation for Team Marianas.

The fundraiser for Team Marianas is part of Joeten's 75th anniversary celebration and its efforts to continue giving back to the community and supporting worthy causes, such as sports development.

"Joeten and our affiliates and the Joeten Daidai Foundation acknowledge the critical role that sports play in shaping the character of individuals, in

teaching and developing ones' athletics skills, and in having a productive and healthy community. Team Marianas made up of our athletes and officials have represented the islands well in the past competitions and we look forward to another successful participation in this year's Micronesian Games," Joeten Daidai Foundation executive director Patty Palacios said.

Team Marianas is planning to send around 150 athletes and officials to the Marshall Islands to compete in the Micronesian Games 2024 that will run from June 15 to 24. NMI delegates will see action in athletics, basketball, beach volleyball, tennis, fastpitch softball, va'a, wrestling, weightlifting, and swimming.

The NMSA, which is working with the different national federations that are sending

See JOETEN on Page 21



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Marianas delegates are seen here during the opening of the 2023 Pacific Games in Solomon Islands. This summer, Team Marianas is heading to the Marshall Island to compete in the Micronesian Games 2024 and is thankful to Joeten Group and the Joeten Daidai Foundation for leading a fundraiser to benefit NMI athletes and officials.